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GUSTAVUS WULFING
February 17, 1802-November 28, 1852

THE LETTERS

of

Gustavus Wulfing

Collected by His Grandson

JOHN MAX WULFING

Translated by

CARL HIRSCH

Printed for private distribution for the
Gustavus Wulfing Association
of St. Louis, Missouri

THE OVID BELL PRESS, INC.
FULTON, MO.

1941

Introduction 1142485

GUSTAVUS WULFING, whose *Letters* are published in this volume, was christened Maximilian Gustav Wülfig, but as the family has always spoken of him as Gustavus, it seems better to use the Latinized form of his name, and as he himself abandoned the umlaut spelling of his family name, we have done the same.

Gustavus Wulfig, then, was born at Lennep, Germany, February 17, 1802. His father was Karl Anton Arnold Wulfig (Lennep, 1762-1826), his mother Anna Christina Henck (Lennep, 1776-1846). As a young man he engaged in business as a merchant and later as an innkeeper at Bielefeld with apparently varying success. On June 30, 1830, he married Friederike Christiane Schmieding (b. at Bielefeld, June 15, 1807), who survived him many years, dying at St. Louis, July 3, 1888. Of this marriage three children were born: Johanne Christina Mathilde at Lennep, March 25, 1831; Karl Heinrich Wilhelm (Charles Wulfig), at Bielefeld, July 7, 1832, and Friedrich Gustav, at Bielefeld, May 18, 1834.

With his wife and three young children he migrated to America in 1835, and it is the experiences of this ocean voyage and of subsequent years in America that we find so faithfully portrayed in the *Letters*. Addressed to his mother until her death in 1846, and subsequently to his sister Juliana in Lennep, the report begins immediately as a diary covering the writer's experiences from the time he left his native city to the end of the ocean voyage, after which there was time as well as inclination for more formal letters.

In this volume we have included all the letters, with no changes and no omissions. There has been no attempt to dress them up, for to have done so would have spoiled them. It is precisely because these letters are presented as they were written, and because they were written with no thought of publication, that they may prove interesting to present-day readers as an honest reflection of the thoughts of one who saw life and lived it in Cincinnati, in Louisville, and mostly in St. Louis, from 1835 to 1852.

At this latter date Gustavus Wulfig satisfied his greatest and most ardently cherished desire—he returned to visit his beloved family and friends in Lennep after he had “made good” in America, and on this visit he died. But he had lived to see his only daughter happily married December 26, 1847, to Heinrich Christian Rudolf

Gildehaus, his son Karl (Charles Wulfing) well on the way to success in business, and his son Friedrich Gustav exhibiting that philosophic calm which permitted him to remain a carefree but much beloved bachelor, "Uncle Fred" to all the children.

The original letters were very carefully preserved by the recipients and were given to Mr. John Max Wulfing by Hanna Maria Luise Wulfing, probably at Lennep, about 1875, at which time Gustavus Wulfing's last surviving sister, Juliana, had been dead for seven years. John Max Wulfing placed them in chronological order between the pages of a substantial folio volume. They are written in ink, which has now faded to a delicate brown but is still very legible. The handwriting is usually very small, though I have reproduced (facing p. 7) a specimen of much larger type, one of the very few letters that show the writer's complete signature.

The translation has been done at the suggestion of Mrs. John Max Wulfing by Mr. Carl Hirsh. If the translator has occasionally left some Teutonisms in the English, the reader will please remember that a bit of the original flavor can frequently best be imparted in that way. Mr. Hirsch has made no attempt at style, but has striven rather to let the writer of the letters speak for himself. The editor has felt the same way—it would be a pity to spoil in the least the honesty of these letters.

The descendants of Gustavus Wulfing formed a family association many years ago called the Gustavus Wulfing Association, and it is under the auspices of this Association that this volume is privately printed and distributed.

EUGENE TAVENNER, *Editor*.

St. Louis, June 7, 1941.



CHRISTIANE WULFING

June 15, 1808-July 3, 1888

Abridged Family Tree

Peter Wülfing	Margarete Wichelhaus
(1530-Feb. 7, 1601)	(——— -July 18, 1604)
Johann Wülfing	Cäcilie Wichelhaus
(——— -May 20, 1642)	(1560(?)-Nov. 13, 1632)
Goddert Wülfing	Elizabeth Teschenmacher
(Aug. 21, 1588-July 18, 1657)	(Sept. 2, 1584-Oct. 24, 1660)
Johannes Wülfing	Christine Karthaus
(July 10, 1613-Sept. 6, 1656)	(Nov. —, 1622-March 11, 1698)
Goddert Wülfing	Anna Margareta Berghaus
(May —, 1651-Nov. 10, 1721)	(April 26, 1670-Jan. 7, 1744)
Peter Wülfing	Anna Gertrud Moll
(Dec. 25, 1711-Jan. 24, 1784)	(Nov. 27, 1721-Feb. 6, 1792)
Karl Anton Arnold Wülfing .	Anna Christina Henck
(Aug. 5, 1762-Feb. 21, 1826)	(June 1, 1776-March 14, 1846)
Maximilian Gustav Wülfing .	Frederike Christiane Schmieding
(Feb. 17, 1802-Nov. 28, 1852)	(June 15, 1807-July 3, 1888)

Letters of Gustavus Wulfing

LENNEP, July 20, 1835.

My dear and much beloved Gustavus:

My most heartfelt greetings to you. May our Lord, who is a just Father to all his children, in heaven and on earth, be with you and your beloved ones. May He protect your soul and guide you and bless you and lead you to safety across the ocean and may He strengthen your heart. Have faith in Him and bear in mind that He can and will save you in the hour of greatest danger, that He will hear your prayers and lead you to safety, so that you may thank and praise Him. This is my most heartfelt wish, which I trust the Lord will fulfil in His grace.

Much love, greetings, and kisses to your beloved children from all of us. Educate and teach them to praise our Lord, and may His grace and His peace be with all of you in every dark night of your life. May He help you to find in the New World a safe place, where you can live in security until we shall meet again in the Land of Peace and Happiness, where neither land nor sea shall separate us and where we can join in praise for His kindness. May it be thus, and may the good Lord bless this wish.

Do not despair, no matter how hard you may have to struggle, and look to the Lord, whose eyes are guiding everyone who is looking up to Him in any country.

*Nach des Kampfes schwerem Leiden
Folgen die Erquickungszeiten;
Gelobt sei Gott.*

After battle's sharpest pains
Come seasons of refreshing rains.
The Lord be praised.

These lines may show you that I am improving again and this will be good news to you, no doubt. Mother and Julia are getting along well and they asked me to send their most heartfelt greetings and extend you a hearty farewell. Also greetings from Auntie.

I have to finish now; keep us in your memory always, and teach the children not to forget us. The Lord's peace be with you.

With much love, I am

Your faithful sister,
E. J. WULFING

July 20, 1835.

Dear Gustavus:

Christachen and I join in the wishes and hopes expressed by Julchen—may the good Lord fulfil all of them! You failed to mention to me that drayman Jorgens took the package along, and I hope that you received everything in good condition. I hope to hear from you from Bremen, or better, when you are aboard ship. We heard that the ship returned to Bremen after two days. Please send us your address in Bremen and tell us how you are getting along. May the good Lord bless you and be with you on your trip. Think of us often and we will think often of you and pray for you and the children.

YOUR FAITHFUL MOTHER.

P. S. We are extremely grateful to learn that our dear Lord saved Charley and we hope you will thank Him also. It is a blessing that children are protected by their guardian angel.

I will write you the absolute truth about Christachen. When she wrote you that she was feeling a little better she wanted you to think during your trip that she would recover completely. However, this is not so, as she is suffering very much and she can hardly lie in bed. She has severe pains in her head and throat and her whole body is shaken by convulsions, and her neck is so weak that she cannot hold up her head. We constructed a contraption for her, but her head falls backward and she can hardly breathe. It is terrible to see her suffer like that. She endures this with great patience in spite of all the pain and she is thankful for everything we do for her.

Her suffering may last for quite some time; the doctor thinks she is declining slowly. I cannot describe to you how much Julchen and I are suffering from all this, but the good Lord is giving us strength. O, how glad Christachen will be when she has conquered and when she will have eternal rest.

Please pray for her that our good Lord may give her strength and that He may lessen her pain. Last week her limbs were swollen up to the knees and she thought her end might be the same as that of our beloved Carl. She is hopeful at the present time, and we are doing everything to help her and to keep her in good spirit. She is submitting to the will of God and she does not wish me to write about this to you. So, when you are writing from Bremerhafen, please do not mention this in your letter.

Our Lord is almighty and when I think of Clärchen Wülfig, I

cannot help but hope that she may be well again. You will clearly see that I cannot write very much, as we have to be with her all the time.

MOTHER.

LENNEP, September 2, 1835.

Dear Gustavus, Dear Christiana:

Since existing conditions made it impossible for me to tell you good-bye, I take this opportunity to send you once more hearty greetings from the Fatherland. The nearer the day of your departure comes, the more I feel our separation. May the good Lord be with all of you, may He guide you safely in the strange land, and may He give you His protection.

Please remember us with love, and we shall gladly think of you. We shall be close to each other in our thoughts and in our prayers even when separated by an ocean. We shall love each other, dear Gustavus, dear Christiana. Love remains forever, and our Lord will make it possible that we may see each other again, and if not, we hope to embrace each other in His kingdom.

Farewell, beloved ones, may the good Lord bless you and your children. I should have liked to see all of you once more and in my thoughts I embrace the children, the little darlings, and may the good Lord allow them to grow up and give you pleasure. May He give you good health and a bright future.

Adieu, dear Gustavus; adieu, dear Christiana! I should like to say more kind words to you, just as I feel toward you, but I cannot do it—the thought of our separation pains me so that tears are filling my eyes. My dear mother is sending her most heartfelt greetings and she wishes you the best of luck; Hannchen is greeting you a thousand times; Lenchen is in Barmen. All of us shall remember you with love.

Farewell, farewell, may the good Lord bless you—I cannot continue.

YOUR DORCHEN.

NEW YORK, October 27, 1835.

The good Lord be praised in all eternity. My soul sings His praise and is happy that He was merciful to us. Before beginning my report I wish to assure you, my dear mother, most solemnly, that I will write nothing but the absolute truth and I give you this assurance because I can foresee that some of it will appear exaggerated

to you. My heart is full of thanks and reverence for our dear Father in Heaven, whose angels protected us. I can hardly write, for my eyes are filled with tears of joy, and it is impossible to express in writing how deeply we are feeling His love. Thank Him from the bottom of your hearts and give Him praise!

First I wish to say that we arrived in New York in good health and that—excepting seasickness—no one was sick during the trip. I presume you received my letter dated September 15 from Bremerhafen.

On Wednesday, September 16, we started out and were entering the North Sea with the tide on September 17 at 4:30 A. M. with a favorable wind. The sea is very dangerous right at the start on account of many rocks, and every ship must have a pilot who is well acquainted with the sea and who knows the location of the rocks. There have been many cases when the pilot could not pass the rocks due to unfavorable wind and had to stay aboard ship for three weeks. When in Bremerhafen we had a chance to talk to a captain whose ship was wrecked on a trip from England to Germany. He was picked up by another ship, which found him after he had sat for thirty-nine hours on the top of his mast wearing nothing but his shirt. His entire crew and cargo were lost. I did not mention this in my last letter, for I knew you were worrying enough about your children and grandchildren.

We had such favorable wind that our pilot could leave us at 9 A. M. on the first day; we were in the open sea and had passed all rocks safely. The wind remained favorable but increased so much that all of us were seasick on September 18. The vomiting caused a terrible stench and nobody could eat anything except two herrings per day, one glass of rum or one glass of red wine; the children were well. On September 18 we saw some bedding and ship material floating around, which created much fear among us; otherwise we could see only sky and water—no birds and no fish.

On September 19 we observed several ships in the distance. On the 20th a storm came up, and our captain, a very prudent man, decided not to pass through the Channel between England and France, but preferred to add about 400 miles to our trip by going around Great Britain. On the 21st we could see the English-Scottish border; everybody continued to be seasick.

On the 22nd Mathilde said to me: "Father, when we are with our good Lord everything will be better; we shall be off the ship and I shall get my toys again—my little plates which Auntie Ch. gave me and my little basket, the one Auntie Ch. gave me, when we were in Lennep."

The seasickness eased up, but nobody could eat anything.

My watch differs already one hour from the ship's clock, which is set according to the sun. Vinegar mixed with water tastes very good to us. We are short of mustard and apples. We saw several sea-birds and seals. For dinner we had *Quellmancher*¹ with salt, which was a great delicacy. In the afternoon the wind was very strong and favorable. Salt water and soap do not mix. The ship is kept absolutely clean and it is scrubbed twice a day. I cannot say the same in regard to the cooking. Coffee without milk tastes good to all of us, the children included, as we have plenty of sugar. We are enjoying onions on dry bread.

September 23. We had a terrible storm last night. The beating of the waves against the ship sounded almost like thunder. The storm was quieting down when the wind turned against us.

September 24. We are feeling fine and no more seasickness, except for our maid, who is still ill, but we are very weak. My coat, which was somewhat tight, is fitting me perfectly and my trousers are fitting me like a sack. Nobody could sleep during the last two nights. We had to hold on with both hands so as not to fall out of our beds; but the children slept soundly all night. Some one of our party was screaming terror stricken as the ship was tossed by the waves, which were as high as a house; all sails were taken down and the masts were creaking; everything that was not securely fastened fell down and everybody thought it was our end. The waves rolled over the ship and we had six inches of water on our deck. We made a resolution to spend every September 24 hereafter thanking and praising our Lord.

I was often in danger of losing my life and I never experienced anything as terrible as that. Water is the most terrible of all the elements. A great, destructive fire is terrible, but it is nothing compared to a severe storm on the ocean. Even a successful trip across the ocean is a dangerous experience. Nobody can escape recognizing God after he has gone through such a storm. If I had mountains of gold to offer here in America, I would consider it a sin to ask you to cross the ocean, as I know that you would never be able to stand the trip. Any one who survived such a night and yet did not commend his soul to God is not a human being. Believe me, it is not in my power to describe it; one has to experience it to understand and realize God in His grace.

Today we had rain, snow, and hail; the storm had driven us far

¹ Many years ago Mr. J. M. Wulfing made careful search for the meaning of this word, but without success.

north of our course and it is very cold. The storm is over and we are getting used to the rolling of our ship. Just now—at equinox—storms are usually at their worst, and we are lucky to be in the open sea where there are no sand-banks or rocks.

September 25. We had another big storm last night, but not so violent as the one the night before; we are again off our course and the wind is against us. In spite of all this we are feeling fine; Chr., however, is still very weak on account of having been seasick.

Our party, consisting of thirty-seven persons, is living in a separate compartment, and, since our little window must be kept closed on account of the weather, you can easily imagine in what condition the air must be in our living quarters, which are located deep down in the ship, and where there are many children and no window open. The air in a pigsty can hardly be worse, and we have to live, sleep, and eat under these conditions.

September 26. The weather is fine today and there is hardly any wind. Everybody is scraping his beard off since nobody has been able to shave since we left. We saw many sea-fish, mussels, marine plants, and crabs. In the North Sea the water looks green and in the Atlantic it appears to be blue. It is clear, but tastes awful, like glauber salt; we like honey-cake better. The sailors have much freedom, and they are inclined to take much for granted, but they are far from being as rude as I thought they would be. I found the ship-hands on the Rhine and on the Ruhr to be much more rude than our sailors; however, the saying is: "When you are among wolves, you must howl like a wolf."

The cook and some of the sailors are showing us favors by giving us occasionally something extra good to eat; we are returning this favor by giving them some of our rum. They seem to like it, for they are thirsty almost all the time.

We cannot depend much on our maid and we may have to discharge her when we arrive in New York.

September 27. Today I found the cake which you put in our trunk, and we, particularly the children, are enjoying it very much. We are all feeling fine; Chr., is still somewhat weak, but the little ones are very sprightly. Not until today could we wash Fritzchen's soiled clothes, air our room, or spend some time on the deck. Sabbath services are poor. We are not lonesome, as the children provide entertainment. Seven adults from our party did not get seasick at all, some of these were strong, others weak, stout, or slim. Duden wrote, and it is also my own opinion, that seasickness is caused by the rolling of the ship only, and not by the sea air, which

is very invigorating. I have wet feet practically all the time, the others, frequently, and I do not have colds or something worse. If you have a strong stomach, you will not get seasick very easily. I was told that I would get seasick, but I was one of those who did not. True enough, I had to vomit, but I was able to take care of the children and others.

Some of the passengers showed very little mettle and bent over, I could not help laughing. It is not a dangerous sickness, a cheerful disposition and a little self-control are all that are needed to overcome it. May our Lord protect me, so that I may continue to cheer up and take care of my dear Chr. She is all right again, but she is still weak; she cannot afford to lose as much as her dear Gustavus can.

Toward evening, about 6 P. M., all sails had to be taken down, as a storm was approaching. The sky is dark and it is starting to rain, the water is angry and foaming.

September 28. Last night's storm was bad but nothing compared to the storm of the 23rd and 24th. The waves washed again over the deck, and the wind turned against us.

September 29. The wind is favorable and strong; we are making nine English miles per hour.

September 30. The wind continues to be strong and favorable, but the waves are less high. We see numerous fish which are called *Schwinges*. They are the size of a small pig, their heads resemble pigs' heads, they swim swiftly and seem to enjoy playing in the foam which is caused by the fast moving ship. The weather is fair and we are making eight and a quarter English miles per hour. It is much warmer, we are about 51 degrees northern latitude; a week ago we were about 63 degrees north.

The cooking does not agree with Chr., she is still feeble and she has to vomit sometimes. The children and I are feeling fine, we are singing, and I enjoy smoking my pipe.

October 1. We are making eight English miles per hour. The waves are high, and it is awe inspiring to see how they are tossing our ship to and fro, and up and down.

October 2. The waves are still higher, and doors and windows must be kept closed. We can hardly stand it much longer in our compartment; may the good Lord protect us from sickness. I stay on deck as much as possible and I am wet all over.

October 3. Today it is somewhat better and the wind continues to be favorable.

October 4. The weather is fine, the waves are low and our ship makes nine and a quarter English miles per hour. A ship passed

near the horizon; it had two masts. Our ship is 132 feet long and has three masts. We would be glad if we had some apples or raw ham. We are feeling fine and we enjoy a good appetite, particularly the children. Fritzchen has twelve teeth already, and M. and C. twenty teeth each. The difference in time is two and a half hours. The captain says we may see New York in nine days if the wind keeps up. Twenty-one hundred hours² have passed since we left and we still have to go eight hundred more. Some passengers claimed they saw whales, but I did not see any. We are approaching the Banks of Newfoundland, where fish are said to be plentiful.

October 5. We have hardly any wind. We noticed a ship toward evening. The captain told us, after looking through his telescope, that it was an abandoned wreck with no mast, no rudder, and not a sign of life. We pleaded with him to investigate from a closer range, but he refused, stating that he could not get closer owing to the wind and that nothing could be done. Some time later we could see with our own eyes that he was right; it made us very sad and left a deep impression.

October 6. It is very warm in spite of rain and a very strong wind. We are too far south and in order to reach New York we shall have to turn north. We are making nine English miles per hour. A seaman knows thirty-two kinds of wind, and twenty-four of them can be used all the time by placing the sails so skilfully that a ship can go north or south with the same wind.

I wish we had some apples, and in place of rum we would prefer red wine; our supply is almost gone. Chr. and M. had another vomiting spell but both are feeling better now. My pipe does not taste right to me when the ship is rolling; I enjoy smoking best when the sea is quiet and the ship rides smoothly. The waves are often so high that my diary gets wet when I make entries.

Our appetite is regulated by the rocking of the ship. When the weather is stormy we don't feel like eating, but we make up for it when the weather is good. Fritzchen was never seasick, Carlchen had to vomit once and Mathilde three times. We like to eat dried prunes out of our hands. We should like very much some cucumbers or berries or anything that quenches the thirst. Our drinking water stinks like liquid manure. This is water taken from the Weser river with charcoal added; spring water cannot be used, as it will not stay fresh very long.

Up to this day we had good soft bread; beginning tomorrow we shall get hard ship's bread. Butter and tea are of a poor grade, coffee

² Apparently calculated from the time he departed from Lennep.

and other food are all right, and bacon and salted meat are very good. Once a week we get two bottles of vinegar and a quarter of a pound of powdered sugar. After much pleading the captain agreed to exchange the butter for a better grade.

October 7. We saw three ships today but did not get close enough to get any information. The weather is fair and the wind is rising toward evening; it is very warm. We are trying to avoid the dangerous Gulf Stream by turning north and expect much colder weather.

October 8. The sea is calm and the weather is fair. We are contented and feeling fine, and we thank our good Lord that He has protected us so far. It is only three hundred German miles to New York.

October 9. We are approaching the Banks of Newfoundland. The plummet shows a depth of one hundred and sixty-two feet. We met several English and French fishing boats. They have lights on their masts, so that they can see each other during night time. The wind is favorable and we are making ten English miles per hour. We should reach New York in five days, but if the wind turns against us it may take five months. Frequently a ship is in sight of land and cannot reach the shore for several weeks owing to lack of wind.

When a family can occupy a compartment with solid board walls near the center mast—and not a latticed partition, as we have—and when they get good meals, they may enjoy a trip across the ocean, but traveling in steerage³ is horrible.

We have two hundred and three people on board ship. We eat more than twice as much as at home and nobody gets sick. My coat is getting tight again. We see many sea-gulls; they are twice the size of a pigeon and have no tails. They fly swiftly and not very high and can rest on the water. Our captain is a very busy man, he takes nautical observations and keeps a record of the speed of the ship; by constant use of the plummet he avoids running aground. The sun rises four and one-half hours later than in Europe. The difference of time is five and one-half hours between New York and Europe. We get much more salted meat than we can eat and we are getting tired of it. The wind is good and strong, and the ship is making good time.

We met an American ship flying a flag marked C C X. We signaled that we were from Bremen by raising our own flag—red and white striped—and a second flag marked No. 3. As soon as this ship

³ This sentence should not be interpreted to mean that the Wulfings were traveling in steerage. Cf. *infra* p. 16, where he specifically writes that he did not come in contact with steerage passengers.

reaches port the captain will report that he met the "Copernicus" near the Banks of Newfoundland. Every captain has a record of all ships which cross the ocean, and he can easily look up that "Bremen No. 3" means "Copernicus." They had three masts, and we could see the ship for about forty minutes passing along the horizon. Everybody is suffering more or less from a headache and dizziness.

October 10. A first helmsman earns twenty *Taler* per month and a second helmsman nineteen *Taler*, sailors get from seven to ten *Taler* per month.⁴

We have passed the Banks and our measuring rope, which was 840 feet long, does not touch the bottom. The weather is disagreeable and cold, the wind is very much against us and we are going back in place of making headway.

We caught a bird, a pleasing sign, which showed us that land is not far off. They lose their way over the sea and take refuge on a ship when they can fly no longer.

October 11. The wind is still against us and we continue to go back.

October 12. The same miserable weather as yesterday. If this keeps up we may never reach New York.

October 13 and 14. The same conditions.

October 15. The wind has changed but is lacking force.

Some steerage passengers had a fight with sailors and it ended much in favor of the sailors. There are plenty of lice in the steerage rooms; since we are not getting in contact with those people, we are very lucky that they don't bother us. Everybody is cleaning, scrubbing, and scouring; they want the ship to look neat when she arrives in New York harbor.

October 16. The wind is again against us; it is beginning to annoy us, and the captain looks his worst. We have plenty of windbags⁵ on board, but they fail to furnish the right kind of wind.

October 18. The sea is calm and the wind is lacking; we are not moving. We can see nothing but sky and water—no birds, no fish.

October 19. Same as yesterday.

October 20. The wind shifted so often during the night that we had to change sails at least ten times; it is fair today. In the morning we saw big fish, which were churning the water to a height of about ten feet. They were as big as an ox and probably weighed a thousand

⁴ The German *Taler*, after which the American dollar is named, is a three-mark piece worth about seventy-two cents.

⁵ *Windbeutel*—"braggarts."

pounds or more; also plenty of smaller fish weighing from twenty to fifty pounds.

Last evening between ten and eleven o'clock I noticed for the first time the "fire balls" which Duden mentioned in his letter; it was a most wonderful sight, and I kept on watching it for hours. The track of the ship seemed to radiate millions of brilliant stars. Oh, how great is our almighty God! Who can tell how many beings in any shape or form may exist in these huge waters!

October 21. We went around the dangerous Gulf Stream, near which the water is lukewarm. This stream originates in the Gulf of Mexico and loses its way near the Banks of Newfoundland; and frequent gales and thunderstorms mark its course. If the wind keeps up we may soon expect a pilot, who will bring us safely to the shore. The weather is fair and every one is having a good time. We are very much pleased with our ship, with the captain, and the sailors; we get wholesome food, but nothing outside of what is coming to us. We get barley, rice with prunes, cabbage and bacon or peas and bacon, and then we get the same thing over again. Our wine is all used up.

Tonight we are going to try to harpoon dolphins. A harpoon is a barbed spear used to catch large fish. We saw four whales today, and they say this means a storm is approaching; may God protect us!

October 22. It is very foggy and I never experienced anything like it. We sound a bell every ten minutes to warn other ships. The steersman and four men are on the lookout and are trying to see an approaching ship early enough to avoid a collision.

October 23. Again a heavy fog, but it cleared up in the afternoon. We saw a shark fifteen to eighteen feet long. The sounding line and plummet showed a depth of three hundred feet.

October 24. 7:30 A. M. Everybody on deck is shouting: Land! Land! Land! We really saw land at a great distance; it looked like a black cloud. We hoped to reach the shore by noon as the wind was in our favor. But the wind changed about eleven o'clock, and at three o'clock in the afternoon we were just as far from the land as we were early in the morning. The wind was so strong that we had a hard time to fetch our meals. Chr. and M. had another vomiting spell. May our good Lord protect us—a storm so close to the shore would be very dangerous.

The captain took up a collection for the benefit of the families of shipwrecked sailors. The waves were high and our little window had to be kept closed; Carl got so wet that he had to change all his clothes. A pilot came aboard at 4:30 P. M. and he succeeded in get-

ting us so close to the shore that we could drop anchor at about 1 A. M.

October 25. We reached New York at about 9 A. M., and everybody was extremely happy. We had to stay on the ship, since it was Sunday and the custom house was closed.

October 26. A physician came on board early in the morning and after finding that everybody was well allowed us to go on land. It did not take us very long to locate a comfortable lodging house.

October 27. We got our baggage today and we had to pay fifteen dollars on the goods we brought along such as ironware, glassware, and firearms.

You can't imagine how busy and rushing this city is. Our maid quickly found other employment and she gets six dollars per month. The symbol \$ means "dollar," and its value is about one and one-ninth *Taler*. New York has two hundred and fifty thousand inhabitants and about 250 churches. Among these are four German churches, one Lutheran, one Catholic, and two Reformed churches.

At our lodging house everything is regulated by a bell. At 6:30 A. M. they ring for breakfast, and everybody must be at the table by 6:45. Coffee is plentiful and is served in coffee cans and not by the cup. We get cream, sugar, white bread, butter, cheese, two different kinds of meat, cabbage, turnips or lettuce. At 12:30 the bell rings for dinner, which consists of soup, three or four different kinds of meat, cabbage, turnips or lettuce. At 7 P. M. they serve lettuce, two or three kinds of meat, bread, butter, and cheese. The meat is only half-cooked. The forks have only two prongs, which makes them hard to use, and that is why many prefer to eat with the knife.

We notice a great number of colored people, and they seem to look alike. The strangest sights are elderly colored women, dressed in fine dresses which are cut low, and poor half-naked colored children. Almost everybody wears a hat. The man who sweeps in front of our house wears a high standing collar and a suit which we would wear only on a Sunday. The farmers dress like city people and they bring their products to the market in nicely painted spring-wagons. Many ladies ride horseback escorted by a colored servant.

I was told that the population of New York consists of three hundred thousand people. The whole city, the stores, and public buildings are lighted by gas.

I lost my wedding ring on the last day aboard ship. I will finish now or the letter will be too long. I shall thank our Lord as long as I

live that He in His grace allowed us to reach New York safely and in good health.⁶

⁶ This letter, or rather diary, is unsigned.

CINCINNATI, Second Christmas Day,¹ 1835.

Dear Mother and Sisters:

My letters from Bremerhafen and New York I trust you have received. To begin with, I transmit to you the good news that thus far we are all happy and well, and furthermore that we have acquired a farm at a good bargain.

In Bielefeld we, that is, Carl, Fritz, and I, had agreed to go into farming as well as merchandising jointly in this country. We soon realized that every head has its own ideas and that Fritz had made the acquaintance of a Jew from Minden by the name of Lindenheim who intends to manufacture eau de Cologne; so we separated, Carl, Fritz, and Lindenheim forming a partnership, while I remained alone. Two weeks later Carl found it advisable to work for himself and left the partnership.

So we are now in Cincinnati, on the river and in the State of Ohio, for the present all together. Fritz and L., whose firm is Lindenheim and Schmieding, have rented a store in town and are preparing to manufacture eau de Cologne. Pauck, Carl, and we live together in the suburbs, have two households, and Carl takes his meals for the time being with Pauck. The latter has started a small candle factory, which is producing well, at any rate more is going out than coming in.

On December 10 Pauck, Carl, Fritz, and I made a trip to the neighboring State of Indiana, where we bought two farms from a widow at \$625.00, or 940 *Taler*. Of this Carl and Fritz received one farm of 76 $\frac{2}{5}$ acres, or 180 bushels of seed, without buildings for \$262.50; and Pauck and I the other farm of 79 $\frac{1}{5}$ acres, or 120 *Morgen*,² or 195 bushels at \$362.50, including a house and barn. Since then Fritz has turned his share over to Carl, as Carl preferred to work for himself; he now owns the farm without building at \$262.50 and he intends to build a house next summer.

Pauck and I bought the other farm together. One of us will take the building and the other will build a new house; the cost of

¹ *I.e.*, December 26.

² The *Morgen* is a German land measure of nearly an acre, but here seems to equal only two-thirds of an acre.

the house to be divided between us. Pauck is going to be my neighbor and Carl will live one-half hour away.³ We are moving to the farm the middle of January and the others will follow in March. The land we bought is six hours from Larrisburg, on the Ohio River; it is located high and has nice surroundings; the ground is good and there is plenty of good water; the distance from Cincinnati is sixteen hours. We can reach Larrisburg by steamboat in two hours. Many Germans are living in this section and a Lutheran church is only one-half hour away. The pastor also teaches school, and everybody speaks well of him. A railroad will be built soon in this section, and this will increase the value of the land. For the time being we have to go through the woods for one-half hour before we reach the nearest road.

Do not think that we bought a farm which is already cultivated. It is mostly timber land, only 30 acres are cleared. This means the trees are cut down about two feet above the ground, and we have to plow between the stumps. The remaining land is covered with woods, and some of the trees are from fifteen to twenty feet in circumference. Fallen trees are scattered all over the uncleared part and they are left to rot away unless one prefers to burn them up; we intend to do this. We have to kill many trees, that is, we cut into them with an ax so that they die and this will enable the sun to shine through the woods. We are told that grass will grow here seven feet high, and this will give us fine hay, which is worth much more than in Germany.

I may take the house. It is a log cabin built of the trunks of trees and has only one room. I shall add another room, but I have to make a settlement with Pauck first. However, if Pauck should prefer to take the house, I will build a larger one for us. Such cabins are put up in three weeks and they cost very little. The wood costs nothing at all and the neighbors help and charge nothing for their work. American country people do not spend much money on their houses. They prefer to invest the money in merchandising and get from 100 to 500 per cent profit. This may sound incredible to you, but it is the absolute truth. People living in the country are called farmers, and many of them are worth \$20,000.00 or more, and yet a log cabin is their only home. Living conditions over here are very different from those over there. I have been in this country only two months, but I could write a book on that subject.

Gentlemen of the better class, wearing high starched collars and a fine neckcloth, do not mind wearing a hat with several holes in it.

³ *I.e.*, it took a half-hour to walk from one to the other.

There is a market every day and in connection with it an auction of ready-to-wear clothing. A gentleman buys himself a new hat, puts it on his head, and tosses the old one in the air. Somebody will catch the hat and throw his own—which is somewhat worse—in the mud.

The men do all the shopping, and if you had been living here only one week, it would not surprise you any more to see Pauck or me come home with a push cart full of flour, meat, cabbage, potatoes, etc., which we had bought for our beloved better halves, who rule the households. We made the acquaintance of a druggist named Backhaus, who comes from Petershagen near Minden. Pauck and I were coming from the market and each of us was carrying a quarter of a pig on his shoulder. Being near his home, we decided to pay him a visit. We stepped into his house and placed our load on the floor. Since I had never met him before, I started to apologize for dropping in like this, but he said that it was perfectly all right. When we were ready to leave he got his own cart, helped us load, and gave us a lift by pulling the cart, while Pauck and I were pushing it. Other countries, other customs! When somebody wants to sell his horse he simply rides through the streets and shouts: "I am bid ten dollars, who offers more? Fifteen dollars, twenty dollars," etc. When some one offers enough, he rides over to him, takes the money, gives him the horse, and goes home; selling his horse did not cost him one cent.

We bought the land from Mrs. Liebe, and she was supposed to pay one dollar a year for taxes; however, she never paid anything, since the collector did not find it worth his while to collect this dollar. Many Germans live in Cincinnati, which has four thousand houses, German schools, and German churches. Most places were open for business yesterday; the law compels everybody to observe Sunday but says nothing about holidays. The markets are open and everybody is working today with the exception of the German people. We shall be glad to go to our farm soon where we can live as we like.

I shall write you now what we have experienced since we left New York. Fritz, Carl, and Lindenheim wished to stay in New York, but I did not want to do so. We arranged our affairs and left New York on November 6. I had a letter of recommendation introducing me to a certain Mr. Albers, who assisted us wonderfully in every respect, and we are greatly indebted to him.

I cannot tell you much about New York. I did not wish to spend the time and the money to see the city. I saw the Exchange, the Bank, the postoffice building, and several churches. Over-sea news

is brought by ships and the Exchange gets its information by telegraph sometimes a day before the ship arrives. In the Exchange Hall we saw a clock which does not indicate the time but shows the exact direction of the wind. The hall is much larger than your church and the equipment is beautiful. The sales surpass all European comprehension, and they tell us that the daily transactions are as much as \$20,000.00. The churches are plain and there is nothing old-fashioned about them; everything is new over here.

We left by steamboat for Philadelphia and covered the distance of ninety-four English miles in eight hours. When we were half way the trip by water came to an end. The whole cargo and everybody on the ship were transferred to forty-seven coaches in only ten minutes. A steam-carriage pulled all forty-seven coaches on rails for thirty-six English miles in two hours time, when we were transferred to another steamboat and we continued our trip to Philadelphia. We saw a German whom we had met in a New York restaurant and we asked him to help us take care of the children and to get our things off the boat. He took Mathilde, I took Carl, and Christiane carried Fritzchen on her arm, and so we started toward the city. It was seven o'clock in the evening and completely dark. I lost our friend and Mathilde within ten minutes and also Christy and Fritzchen, and I had to hunt for them. After about fifteen minutes—which in my excitement appeared to be much longer—we found each other. When we arrived at a lodging house we were completely exhausted but nevertheless in good spirits. Unfortunately, they could not take care of us as they had no rooms left, and in spite of darkness and fatigue we had to continue searching for shelter. At last we found a place where we could stay over night, but it was so poor that we had to look for better quarters the next day; we located a good place near the canal to Pittsburgh. A boat was leaving on the third day, and we were told that we would reach Pittsburgh in ten days. The distance from New York to Pittsburgh is four hundred miles.

It was very warm when we left Philadelphia but it soon turned cold and the children had to stay in bed all day as we had no stove. After traveling three days a canal dam broke and we had to wait two days until it was repaired. Four days later another dam broke and this caused a delay of one and one-half days, as about a hundred ships were ahead of us, and we had to wait our turn to go through a lock. We passed under many bridges and through numerous locks on this trip.

At last we reached the end of the canal and had to continue by

rail. We were very glad to know that no broken dam, no locks, and no frozen canal could delay us any longer. Our train consisted of fifteen coaches and was pulled by four horses and not by steam. After traveling a half-day we had to stop because of darkness. The next day was Sunday and we had to wait. By Monday morning a heavy snow made it impossible to go on. After waiting seven long days, we decided to continue by boat. We had to spend the nights in our coach on the open road. It was cold and the little ones were crying; we ran out of bread, and there was no place where we could buy any.

The boat was better than the one we had before. We had a small room to ourselves with a stove. We were glad that the children would not cry any longer because of cold, and this time I had bought enough bread to cover our wants. Cold, snow, and rain could not harm us, and we had no trouble with the dam. We were cheerful and talked about the hardships which we had experienced, and happy that every one of us was well, when most unexpectedly Fritzchen fell against the stove and burnt his whole face.

His chin, his mouth, and his left cheek were much disfigured. We put grated potatoes on his face for two to three hours until the poor child fell asleep completely exhausted. He was frightened even in his sleep, awoke frequently, and it was pitiful to see the little fellow suffer. For the time being we could do nothing else for him but hope to get to Pittsburgh soon, where we could buy a good healing salve. After three long days the captain told us that we might reach Pittsburgh this day. We were very pleased to hear this and for once no broken dam delayed us, but, unfortunately, we had another mishap. Our boat was too heavily laden due to the greediness of its owner and we ran aground. We had to wait until the following day, when another boat took over some of our cargo, and this enabled us to continue. A few hours before we were due to arrive at Pittsburgh the canal was frozen and we had to stop again. Fortunately, a larger boat was passing, which had enough force to break the ice. When we finally arrived in Pittsburgh we succeeded in getting the much-wanted salve, which improved Fritzchen's condition almost at once.

We left Pittsburgh by steamboat and had a beautiful trip through the Ohio Valley. We arrived in Cincinnati after three days on December 4 and are now six thousand miles away from home. On the boat we shared a large heated room with about one hundred fellow travelers, and everybody was comfortable until we got to Wheeling; this is the name of a small town. Here eighty Negroes

boarded the boat and it became so crowded that we were lucky to keep enough space for the children to sleep.

I am telling you only the greater hardships of our trip and passing over unimportant ones. The canal is five hundred miles long and it is one of the outstanding achievements created by human hands; we passed under many bridges, through numerous locks, and across many aqueducts. These are structures for conveying the canal over a river or hollows, and one of them was three-quarters of a mile long.

When a bridge is built in Barmen across the Wupper River the newspapers write long articles about it and there is a big celebration when it is finished. In this country they build covered bridges, or bridges with a span of one-half, three-quarters, or even one mile in length and nobody seems to think much about it. The boats have to pay a toll when going through a lock and the amount depends on the weight. To weigh a boat means much extra work, but it is done by one man in ten or twelve minutes; our boat weighed 35,000 pounds.

There is one incident which I wish to mention. When we were delayed by the snow, I had to get water from a nearby spring; just then Carl, Fritz, and Lindenheim were passing me. Their coach went fast and they had hardly time to tell me that they too were on their way to Cincinnati. They went on in spite of the snow, but they had to pay four times as much as we paid for all of us. Besides, we had the advantage of having our baggage with us whereas their belongings, though they have been in Cincinnati one week longer, have not yet arrived.

I had lots of fun with my short pipe, which has been admired by many people. I was asked more than once to let them have a smoke, and some fellows were so persistent that I had to say I was not in good health; it was the only way to get rid of them.

When I had to buy something I stopped frequently in plain looking log cabins, but found the floors covered with a fine rug. In every home there was at least one chair which was fixed like a cradle, and one could rock in it back and forth.

Everybody noticed that our children were German because they had such nice rosy cheeks, and they were liked for their good behavior. When we were delayed on the canal a teacher paid us a visit; he gave Fritzchen a half-dollar and to the others apples and nuts. Between New York and Cincinnati we had to pass over the Allegheny Mountains. It was very cold and the winter is just as severe over here as at home. The mountains are so high that no

wagon can go over them, so they build an underground passageway through them, six thousand feet long. When we went through one of these passages we thought we were in a cellar.

Wherever we went we saw enterprises and undertakings which would have been considered impracticable at home. Canals cross each other like roads over there. One man handles a heavy freight wagon all by himself. Ladies and children at the age of six take rides or drives all by themselves.

We arrived in Cincinnati on December 4, and Fritz and his partner happened to be at the levee; they told us that Pauck was also here. After taking care of our belongings we started for Pauck's home. Even though we had to go through mud ankle deep we were extremely glad that we were at the end of our hardships. It was a very happy day for all of us, as we had been traveling for more than three months. Pauck had made arrangements for us to live in the same house with him and we were very much pleased about this.

Fritzchen is improving rapidly. We rested a few days and, after providing Christy with supplies, we started out to buy the farms, and I think we did well. Now we shall buy the necessary equipment and intend to leave for the farm about the middle of next month.

I hope, my dear mother, that you got my letter from New York and I can well imagine how happy you must have been when you heard that we arrived safely. The ocean voyage was very dangerous and troublesome, but the hardships which we had to endure between New York and Cincinnati were by far greater. At times it took all my energy to keep up my spirits and to be able to comfort Christy. Our hearts were breaking and our courage was gone when we had to sleep in a coach on the open road, when the children were crying because of cold, and when we could buy no bread for them. I cannot tell you how much we suffered on account of Fritzchen, who did not want to stay in bed. We thank our Lord and we are grateful that He permitted us to arrive here safely and in good health with the sole exception of Fritzchen.

Pauck cannot share our happiness, for he lost his youngest son on the ocean and they had to bury him near the Banks of Newfoundland. All the other members of his family are well. Pauck has been here three months and some of his belongings are still missing. This will show you how bad shipping conditions are over here. We are glad that we brought our things with us, though it was very troublesome at times. We heard yesterday that New York had a big fire and that a thousand houses burnt down; three houses were destroyed by fire in this city last week.

There is a good chance to make money in selling European merchandise. I will open up a store when I am better acquainted with the conditions over here, as I do not wish to take unnecessary chances. Carl and I are of the same opinion, but Fritz, Pauck, and Lindenheim are more enterprising and they are willing to take a chance at almost anything. It is good that we agreed to separate so that every one may do what he likes best. We live close together and can help each other, but I doubt that our partnership would have been a success.

I hope that you answered my last letter and that you mailed your letter to the address which I gave you. Please address your next letter as follows:

Mr. G. Wulfing
c/o Messrs. Lindenheim & Schmieding
Cincinnati, Ohio.
Nord Amerika.
franco Havre de Grace.

We named our farm *Blumental*, "Flower Valley." Carl called his *Eichenhain*, "Oak Grove," and Pauck named his *Wolfsschlucht*, "Wolf Glen."

We spent the holidays and Sunday, December 27, in our home; we had a tree and the children played with their old toys, and were happy with them. Fritzchen gave us a big surprise—he started to walk and crossed the room all by himself. The children give us much pleasure, but it is a pity that they come too much in contact with Pauck's children. His children are very stubborn and they are not brought up properly. When the father forbids something the mother will allow it, or the reverse. We shall be glad when we shall be able to live to ourselves next summer; we shall be good neighbors but we shall not meddle in their affairs.

I may get an opportunity to send you some German-language newspapers which may be very interesting to you. All kinds of German books can be bought here from a primer to the Bible. Generally speaking America ranks high in everything.

There are hardly any taxes, and in spite of this fact the Government has a surplus of two hundred thousand dollars this year. The army of six thousand soldiers does not cost very much. The Government gets its income chiefly from duties on foreign goods and from the sale of land, which amounted to eleven million dollars last year.

Young girls can earn much money. Pauck's Elise, a child of

thirteen, was offered seventy-eight dollars a year as nursery-maid. Such maids are treated very well and the pay includes home and the right to eat at the family table. The farmers have a nice income; butter is worth 39 cents a pound and all their other products bring good prices. City people and country folk dress alike. Milk dealers sell their milk at a good price out of a barrel with a faucet attached which is fastened on a one-horse spring-wagon. They drive through the streets and a bell which hangs over the horse's head gives the customers notice of their presence. Coal or oil is not used at all, people heat with wood and for light they use tallow candles.

Busch, Tebbe, and Osterwald traveled from New York to Buffalo, and by Lake Erie to Lancaster, Ohio. They did not like it there and they passed through Cincinnati the other day on their way to Missouri. Everybody is warning us that Missouri is unhealthy and that existing conditions are not very good. I cannot tell whether this is correct, but if it is true, then D. & M.⁴ misinformed us very much.

I have heard rumors that D. is supposed to live with his housekeeper as husband and wife, and M. is said to be drunk every day of his life, and that both were inclined to fight. I am told that D. is neglecting his farm and that his buildings are almost collapsing. The K. family of M. is also living in Missouri, and they say that they have spent all their money traveling and now will have to struggle hard. B. of B. wants to go back to Germany, since he does not like it over here.

I do not know if all this is true, as we are well satisfied. There are some things which we should like to have and we hope to get them as time goes on. However, if we cannot get them, we shall have to learn to do without. We are convinced that we shall make good headway and that our Lord will bless our sincere efforts. One thing seems to be sure: The chances of success are greater in this country than at home, but there are two matters which must not be overlooked. In the first place, you must get acquainted with American living conditions, and in the second place, you must not risk too much at one time. Therefore, I think it is best to begin on a farm; it is the safest way to get a start. A farmer is just as much respected as a business man, and to start in business has its difficulties too.

Fritz and Lindenheim pay \$175.00 rent, and Albers in New York paid annually \$1500.00 for warehouse rent alone, not considering his home. When you are established and careful in buying, there is a chance to make up to 500 per cent profit in spite of such expenses; I

⁴ Initials seem to be employed here and in the following paragraphs to shield these individuals.

mean to say that you may get as much as \$600.00 for goods costing only \$100.00. A bricklayer who came from Münster without money has a good business in Cincinnati and he pays \$1700.00 rent. Theaters are taxed heavily by the city. A smart fellow bought himself a boat, remodeled it into a theater, and gives performances on the Ohio River. Everybody is attracted by this novel idea, and he makes plenty of money. Being on the river, the city can collect no taxes from him. People over here take chances in almost everything. They kill more than a thousand swine per day in slaughter-houses, pack them in barrels, and ship them to New Orleans. Almost everything is done on a large scale. One wood chopper can chop as much wood with an American ax as four strong fellows accomplish in the same time in Germany. It is hard to believe how much Americans are advanced over Germans in labor saving contrivances, but, generally speaking, they are not as thrifty as the Germans.

Colored people are given to drinking. Our children are not afraid of them any more. If you know a family that wants to come over here, and that wishes to get some sound advice, I shall be glad to correspond with them. All I ask in return is that they bring a few things along for me, for which I shall gladly pay as soon as I get them; I shall name them in due time. The noble hearted G. could have helped us much by answering our letters, since he is familiar with conditions over here. If I intended to return to Germany now, and then come back here, I should need only \$200.00 worth of merchandise. The sale of these goods would give me enough profit to cover the expenses of the round trip. It would be much easier for me to do this if I had a few years experience over here, as G. had. I have a strong desire to see our dear fatherland again, or at least to establish business connections with German firms.

We have just received newspapers from New York which describe the big fire. They state that the property loss exceeded twenty million dollars and that more than a thousand houses were destroyed. The oldest and most thickly populated part of the city is ruined. It was so cold that the firemen could not use their equipment, as the water froze, and they had to wreck many buildings to keep the fire from spreading. They listed the streets which were destroyed; Maiden Lane is not mentioned. This is the street where Albers has his home, but the street on which Boker lives is listed. The beautiful Exchange and the Post Office Building burnt down and many people were killed. Goods of great value were stored in the Exchange Building, which was considered safe on account of its arched ceil-

ings, but the walls did not resist the immense heat. There is much confusion, and no doubt many will be bankrupt. Bremen will suffer a loss too, since most business houses were located in that section. You may have read about this fire in your paper before this letter reaches you; it started on December 16 at 9 P. M.

The weather changes very much over here. One day it is very warm, so that doors and windows will have to be kept open, and the next day is so cold that the water freezes. We are having a cold winter this year. Almost everything is obtainable over here the same as in Germany. Some things are more expensive and others are much cheaper; as a rule everything is somewhat higher over here and we are glad that we brought so much along. Tinware is very high—particularly goods manufactured in Nuremberg and some ironware bring surprisingly high prices.

Please write my address exactly as given. What was the outcome of the election in B.? If they elected a squire (*Junker*) or a man about town (*Lebemann*), I would advise them to send him over here first, so that he may learn righteousness and justice. It would be a good thing for H. P. to be over here too, so that he may learn to mind his own business and not interfere with other people's affairs. No one is judged over here by the amount of money he spends; they are all considered equal, and everybody is respected who tries to earn an honest living, and who does not pretend to be more than he really is. Sinecures are not known over here, and there is no room for boasting and self-glorifying assessors and there is no priestly power—all of whom pass laws which they do not obey themselves, and change them arbitrarily to suit their own purposes. Dissoluteness and viciousness are not tolerated by people who claim to belong to the better educated classes. A fellow like F. L. in B., for instance, would have been deprived of his citizenship long ago. If J. were here they would run him out of town for being unjust, since he did not tolerate criticism of his own actions. The young German dudes who think it is below their dignity to bid you the time of day would soon learn better over here.⁵

My dear Father and Brothers and Sisters (in law):

Since Pauck is writing to Bielefeld and Carl to Löhne, we shall mail our three letters together, and for that reason I am sending this letter to you first. I hope that all of you enjoy good health and that you had a chance to read our previous letters, especially

⁵ The signature seems to be lacking.

the one which I sent to my beloved mother on October 27. Please write us a few lines in regard to yourselves and give us some news from Crefeld. Kindly forward this letter as soon as possible to my dear mother: Frau Wittwe Carl Wulfing, née Henk, in Lennep, as she is undoubtedly very anxious to hear from us.

As a favor I should like to ask you not to give any information about the contents of this letter, or any other letter, to anybody who may ask about us out of curiosity only, for instance P. and his associates. If, however, you have a chance to meet M., please extend to him our most heartfelt greetings and tell him how we are getting along. Also extend our greetings to our friends and relatives and particularly to the Winters.

I do not have to remind you, my dear mother, to give this letter to our dear aunt and greet all those who remember us in kindness. It must not surprise you that I did not write much about the conditions over here. I am not sufficiently informed myself to give such information. I shall get along all right and the language seems not so hard to learn; the children are learning some English words already from other children.

I bid you farewell. May our Lord be with all of you and bless you. We hope to hear from you within two months in reply to our letter from New York; we intend to write again on Easter or Pentecost. Farewell and think of us often, as we shall think of you everyday. If you should happen to hear of one family or another who intend to come here, do not pass up this chance to give them a letter in detail and ask them to bring it over to us. I shall finish now, for Christiane wishes to write a few lines to you also. In presenting our respects to you, I am, G. W.

My Beloved Father and Brothers and Sisters, Dear Mother-in-law, Sisters-in-law, Dear Aunt and Nieces:

How are you? I hope that all of you are enjoying good health. We have heard nothing from you for some long time. My thoughts are with you in spite of the great distance which separates us and I remember you in love. Our Lord has guarded and protected us in our long trip and He saved us from many dangers. I wish you would join us in thanking our heavenly Father for the kindness which He bestowed upon us.

My beloved Gustavus wrote such a perfect letter that I do not know of anything I could add; I beg of you not to feel hurt because I write so little, but I promise to write a long letter soon. Matildchen

and Carlchen ask very often about their grandpa and grandma; they are darling children and they give me much pleasure. Farewell, all of you, and think of us as we often think of you.

Affectionately, CHRISTINE.

Carl has an opportunity to send his letter to New York free of charge, and I shall hold this letter until they can go together. Pauck is writing to his brother Georg Wm. Pauck in B'feld, and I shall include my letter with Pauck's; please refund him your share of the charges at your convenience. When writing us please address your letter precisely as given.

Farewell to all of you and think of us often. Special greetings to the Dustmanns in B'feld.

Your
GUSTAVUS WULFING.

This letter will be mailed today, January 1, 1836, as Pauck did not finish his letter until now. I wish to extend to all of you our heartfelt wishes for the New Year. New Year's Day is not a holiday, but we are celebrating according to our good old German custom. Please write us very soon and tell us if Christianchen is better by now.

In Philadelphia Fritz saw the bookseller B. of Minden, who has squandered all his money and who has to work pretty hard now. Does K. still intend to go to America, or did he change his mind? If so, then tell him to bring two big hunting dogs along, as he can get as much as \$100.00 for a good hunting dog. A Pinscher dog is very scarce and they bring as much as five dollars for a little pup. It is hard to get canary birds across the ocean. If someone should buy twelve pairs and succeed in bringing only one pair over, his efforts would be well rewarded, since young birds (male) are worth from \$5.00 to \$8.00.

We see hardly any birds, not even crows or magpies, but they say that the woods are full of them during summer time. We hear that almost all animals that are at home in Germany are also to be found here. The cattle are the same type as in Friesland and hogs are plentiful—in fact very numerous in some parts of this country.

Cutting instruments such as knives, shears, etc., are imported from England and are far cheaper than in Solingen. The head of a doll costs five times as much as in Germany. Glassware is cheap, but earthenware costs as much as porcelain, and wooden spoons are as high as tin spoons over there. Basket-makers and coopers are paid unusually well and they can earn much money in this country.

Clergymen and teachers are paid poorly; they get from two hundred to four hundred dollars per year; they do not rank higher than a handicraftman, and besides, they depend very much on the good will and support of the people. They are engaged by the year and may lose their positions for the most trivial cause, and for that reason churches and schools are frequently closed for several months. Please mention this to missionary Petry, if you happen to see him, and extend to him our most cordial greetings. When you go to B'feld, please tell the deserter B., who lives with the blacksmith V., that I advise him to stay at home, and that I cannot find anything here which would be suitable for him. I shall write him again if I should hear of something later on.

Two nights in succession I dreamed that I was in Lennep narrating to you our traveling experiences and that I returned to Blumental in the State of Indiana via Löhne and Bremen. I wonder if such dreams will ever be realized. There is not much space left, and I shall close by sending to all of you a billion, trillion greetings and extra greetings from my beloved Christelchen. I was assured by her this morning that she has not regretted coming with me, and I give you my most solemn assurance that I feel the same.

Farewell, and keep us in kind memory.

In recommending ourselves to you and your worthy family, I am with respectful greetings,

Your obedient
GUSTAVUS WULFING.

My Dear Cousin Pauck:

I would thank you to forward this letter at your earliest convenience, and the expense incurred will be promptly refunded. I take this occasion to thank you once more for the letter of recommendation. I found Mr. Albers of New York to be a very polite and amiable gentleman, and I am greatly indebted to him. He went to so much trouble for us that I felt almost embarrassed.

Please give my regards to the postmaster Wessel and tell him that we arrived safely and well in this country.

HERRN CARL HEINR. SCHMIEDING, SENIOR
in
LÖHNE
bei HERFORD in WESTPHALEN
via NEW YORK and BREMEN.
Postpaid NEW YORK.

CINCINNATI, February 6, 1836.

My Beloved Mother and Dear Sisters:

As I have an opportunity to send this letter to New York, I am again writing today, for I know that getting a letter from me will give you much pleasure. We are getting along well and we are about ready to go to our farm. I trust you have received my letters from Bremerhafen of September 15, from New York of October 27, and from here of December 26 by the time you get this letter, and it is our earnest wish to hear from you quite soon.

I have already written in detail about our experiences and nothing has occurred since my last letter except that Carl intends to get married. We have not met the bride-to-be as yet, but hear that she is a very fine young lady, and Carl intends to introduce her to us day after tomorrow. She has an excellent reputation and many fine qualities. However, they wish to keep this strictly secret, therefore I will ask you not to send this letter to Löhne and to keep the contents to yourself; I shall not refer to this letter any more.

As I had anticipated, the manufacturing of eau de Cologne did not pay, and Lindenheim & Schmieding started a candle factory together with Pauck. I cannot judge if they will succeed, but time will tell, and I am glad that I have no connection with the firm. Pauck has no religion and he is unscrupulous; he thinks he has overlooked something if he does not cheat someone, and Lindenheim is a real Jew. Fritz in his trusting good nature is like the explorer who sees on one side a tiger and on the other a crocodile, and who can be saved only by a miracle. I wish him the best of luck, but I have no confidence in their business. Christy, Carl, and I are very sorry that the Jew has such a bad influence over him. It is a pity that Fritz is too young and inexperienced to realize the danger of his position, and we wish with all our hearts that our dear Lord may guide him in the right direction, since he was always a perfect model of righteousness, diligence, and respectability.

I presume that you are interested in hearing what we are doing. I made my first twenty-five cents by chopping wood for Lindenheim and Schmieding; I did this most cheerfully, and I had to work for one and a half hours to earn this. Since then I have worked many days making chocolate and earned fifty cents per day. I have learned the trade well, and I intend to use this knowledge. When we are on our farm, I shall start this business in a small way, and with the aid of our Lord I hope to make some extra money. The net profit is 50 per cent and there is a good market for this product. Winter will soon be over, and we are eager to get a start. We have been sur-

prised at ourselves many times to find that we become accustomed so quickly to the ways of living, manners, and customs of this country; we feel completely at home, and quite often I have to remind myself that I am several thousand miles away from Germany. The fact that many Germans live here and that we have German churches and schools has a good deal to do with this. We are learning the English language quickly, and I can make myself understood fairly well. Mathilde in particular is learning fast and she is proudly telling us new words which she picked up from neighbors' children.

I shall make a settlement with Pauck next week in regard to the farm which we bought together and I think I am going to take the house. I shall be glad when this is settled, as I like to work alone and do not wish to depend on a partner. I can then do what Christy and I have planned to do—I do not have to work for others, and we both will know what we are working for.

I wrote you in a previous letter that there is a good chance to make headway in this country; all that is needed is to keep your eyes open and not be afraid of work. A man who lives a half-hour's walk away from here made enough money by manufacturing brooms to retire and live on his interest. I went to see a tinware factory the other day. The most skilful tinsmith in Germany cannot turn out such nice work as an apprentice does over here, since everything is done by machines. I visited an iron foundry and saw that there too almost everything is done by machinery. In a flour mill I noticed ingenious contrivances packing, loading, and unloading barrels. Everything works like clockwork in this country. I know a butcher who slaughters thirty oxen every day and gets two dollars each. This means an income of sixty dollars per day, one-half to be deducted for rent and helpers, which leaves for him a net income of thirty dollars per day. A pen point costs two cents when bought in quantities and sells for twelve and a half cents—that is more than 500 per cent profit.

Anybody who has money enough to get a start, who is familiar with the trade, and who knows when and where to buy—either here or in Germany—can accumulate a fortune. Of course he will have to be careful and not venture too much, and above all, he must not suffer great reverses. This is mainly due to the fact that nothing is overcrowded in this country. In Germany one hundred applicants are waiting to fill a vacancy. A manufacturer has to work his employees to death, not that he wants to earn more for himself, but simply because he must compete with others. Many have to pay more taxes than they actually earn, for example wine-growers pay in a bad

year more taxes than the wine is worth. Some spend more for household expenses than they can afford; they want to be considered "respectable," and therefore try to keep up appearances. Others are cheated out of their just earnings because they have to give too much credit, since no business can be done in Germany without extending credit.

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Conditions are very much better here. The government collects hardly any taxes and they do not spend millions to support an army. To be respectable means something entirely different in this country. Anyone who is working and leading an orderly life, and who is spending less than he earns, is considered a gentleman—which means a man of decent behavior.

Almost all business transactions are cash, which is made possible by numerous national banks. Scarcity of money is not known here, and for that reason there are very few bankruptcies. Wages are high; manual laborers get a dollar and skilled laborers a dollar and a half to two dollars per day—the prevailing idea is that the workman must earn a respectable living. Manufacturers fix their selling prices so that they can afford to pay these wages, and the American people do not cut prices. In short, this is a wonderful country! Anyone who becomes acquainted with American ideas and who knows how to distinguish between human dignity and servitude, will not like it any more in Germany—and I am one of them. But I am going too far and I shall cut short; I am glad that we are in this free country and I do not wish to be a Prussian any more.

Before I finish I wish to say a few words about the pastor of our nearest German Lutheran church. He preaches with feeling and strictly according to the Bible and seems to be sincere. He paid us several visits and I am very much pleased with him. Last Sunday another pastor held the services. I have heard many poor sermons but I cannot remember that I ever heard one worse.

As I said before, my dear mother, I know of nothing in particular I could write about; the main reason for writing you today is to let you know that we are feeling fine and that we are getting along all right. This will be pleasant news for you. I ask you again not to talk to anyone about this letter, and do not send it to Löhne.

When you write me please mention which letters arrived and tell me the date when you got them. Did you have a severe winter? It was very cold here until a few days ago. How are you feeling? And please give our aunt and nieces our most cordial greetings. Our children are healthy and happy, and we are in the best of spirits.

It was a gigantic undertaking to emigrate to this country and

we are very happy that we accomplished it. May God bless and protect us in His everlasting grace, and may He continue to hold His hands over us! We are going to the farm within a short time but expect to return to the city as soon as I am sufficiently familiar with American conditions to be able to make a living.

My address is the same which I gave you in my last letter.

Please tell me how much you had to pay for each letter so that I may see if it is better to send my letters via Bremen or via Havre de Grace. Be sure and send all your letters via Havre de Grace, it is safer, they will not cost more, and they will arrive in less time.

Farewell, and please write soon. Thousand greetings to all of you and also to our friends and relatives.

YOUR GUSTAVUS.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, December 11, 1836.

My Dear Mother and Dear Sister:

Thus far I have not received a letter from you. The only news I have had since I left Bünde was the letter of April 2 from my father-in-law, in which he wrote us that my dear sister Christiane passed away last fall. Her death reminded us of the uncertainty and short duration of life in this world rather than caused us sadness. We were prepared to hear this since her condition was not very good when we left, and your letter to Bremen showed us clearly that there was little hope for her. God in His grace and righteousness will give her a much more incomparable home than she could have here on earth, and we shall not envy her the peace she is enjoying now after enduring so much suffering. Those who passed before us will be glad to meet her in heaven and she will be thankful that our good Lord took her away from all this suffering so that she may enjoy eternal bliss. May she rest in peace and may her early departure remind us to prepare ourselves for our future home in heaven!

I cannot help but think that one, or possibly more, of your letters were lost, as I can hardly believe that you would allow so much time to pass without writing to me. I wrote to you from Bremerhafen September 15, 1835, from New York October 27, 1835, and from here on February 6, 1836. In addition I mailed a letter dated December 26, 1835 to Löhne and asked to have it forwarded to you without delay. My father-in-law acknowledged receipt of my letter on April 2 of this year. I hope that this letter will reach you by the end of February next year and I expect to get an answer from you by the end of May.

Please write my address exactly as given and see to it that the address is written legibly; use good note paper and seal the letter with a wafer;¹ do not use sealing wax. If you send your letter by an emigrant, tell him to mail it from his landing place or, in case he is going to Cincinnati, he may see Mr. John Imhoff, who lives on Main Street. Mr. Imhoff will gladly direct him to our home, as it is possible that we may move to a different location, but we intend to stay in this city. I did not mention to you yet that we sold our farm and moved back to Cincinnati.

Before writing about anything else I wish to tell you that our dear Father in heaven has blessed us with good health and we are very thankful for this fact. I complained to you some time ago that we missed some things which I think we ought to have, but my excellent wife says: "My dear Gustav, our dear Lord has blessed us so much with good health and He has shown us so much kindness that all our actions and deeds should be thanks, praise, and reverence for Him, and we should have no time for complaints." And she is exactly right!

Since it is possible that you failed to get my previous letters, I will repeat in short our experiences since we left Germany:

We left Bremerhafen on September 17 last year, landed in New York October 26, and arrived here in Cincinnati on December 4, 1835, where we met with Pauck and his family. Pauck lost his youngest child on the ocean and it was buried in the sea near the Banks of Newfoundland. On the 12th of December last year we bought two farms, namely: Carl and Fritz together eighty acres, and a mile away Pauck and I bought another eighty acres. Shortly afterwards Fritz decided to stay in the city and he sold his share to Carl. Fritz started a candle factory with a Jew from Prussian-Minden named Lindenheim, which however did not pay; they discontinued after losing about five hundred dollars. Lindenheim went to Louisville, where he opened up a ready-to-wear clothing store, together with two other Jews, and he makes good money. Fritz went into service for a while, but he now lives in Louisville—one hundred and fifty miles away from here; he is selling jewelry and he too is earning good money.

On March 3, this year, Carl married a Miss Wilhelmine Wiegrebe, of Elsey near Pr.-Minden, and he wrote to his father at that time that she was a second Gretchen. This opinion was wrong, but she

¹ The German word used here is *Oblate*, which means a consecrated wafer used in the communion service; then any wafer, as here, especially prepared for sealing letters.

resembles G. in her actions. She spends as much in one day as Carl can earn in eight days, is intolerably capricious and erratic, she laughs, weeps, or is abusive, etc., threatens every day to run away or to get a divorce, and all this in spite of the fact that she expects to become a mother within a short time. With her torments she is ruining her own and Carl's life. She is just as clever as Gretchen, but Gretchen is cunning and knows how to bring her husband around, whereas she is trying to get the same results by abusing him. To be fair to her I must admit that Carl is extremely awkward and clumsy, he should be more lenient and should show her more consideration. This will be an absolute necessity if they intend to live in peace and harmony, else their married life will be most unhappy.

Carl exchanged his eighty acres for another farm of twenty-nine acres, and he is determined to stay on the farm. The English language seems to be an insurmountable handicap, and for that reason he does not want to return to city life. However I doubt that they will be able to succeed, and I feel confident that sooner or later they will return to the city. Pauck sold his share of the farm with a profit of \$26.00; he is also in the jewelry business, and he and his family are getting along all right. Christiane and the children are paying them a visit just now.

I will tell you now what we are doing. I know you are eager to hear this; I really should have written about us first, since hearing about us is of greater interest to you. We are healthy and contented, live a quiet life and love each other very much; we enjoy our children and have no wants. I earn a little more than we need and we are confident that our dear Lord will protect and shield us in the future. What else can we wish, my dear mother? Does that not mean that we are really happy! Thanks to God we are getting along well, and I doubt very much that you and Julchen would care to return to Germany if you were here. If it is God's will, we may see each other once more in this world.

Now to the fact: Pauck and I divided our eighty acres in such a way that I had the forty acres with the house and stable, and I paid him a compensation of thirty-five dollars. Pauck, who speaks English well, inquired from neighbors to find out which section was the best and on which side there was more cleared land. He agreed to accept the small compensation mentioned above before a survey was made, as he felt quite sure that he had seventeen acres of cultivated land on his side. Since I wanted the house and did not wish to build, we made the settlement on this basis. After the survey was made, we found that I had twelve acres of cleared land, and he had only six

acres, and for that reason I made a clear profit of \$84.00, and he only \$26.00 when we sold the farms; besides, I sold for cash and he on credit terms, which caused him to lose 10% interest.

I soon realized that farming was not the right thing for us. I did not get a chance to learn the language and customs; I had to work and sweat all day with plow, hoe, or axe, only to raise enough for our needs. We decided to return to Cincinnati, and I started a small jewelry business by myself. With the aid of our Lord I hope to earn enough to make a living for us and to be able to put a few dollars aside. I intend to import jewelry from Germany and am convinced that I can make money. Christiane is happy that we gave up the much-praised country life. She was always by herself. Here she can visit the Backhaus family, of Petershagen, near Pr.-Minden, with whom we are well acquainted. We were fortunate to find a nice and comfortable home, and I have learned English so well that I am able to transact business.

My dear Christelchen is an expectant mother and we hope that it will be a girl. We intend to name her Julia Dorothea and hereby ask her aunts if they are willing to be her godmother. If it is a boy we will name him Herman Gottfried.

Mathildchen is learning to knit, and she will go to school next spring. We intend to send her to the German school in the forenoon and to the English school in the afternoon. The German school and the Lutheran church are right across the street from our home and we like the pastor. The English school is close by. Schools are free, as the State pays all the expenses, but there is a reasonable charge for the German school.

We have three German churches here—a Catholic, an Evangelical, and a Lutheran, and each church has a school of its own. We joined the Lutheran church, as we liked the pastor best. The Evangelical minister operates a flour mill, and also a blacksmith shop. The English churches are very beautiful but have no steeples. The Episcopal church has pews of mahogany wood with horse-hair upholstery, and the soft, melodious sound of the organ is most impressive. All churches—German or English—are heated. Our pastor gets a salary of about six hundred dollars per year, and three hundred dollars will cover his living expenses if managed wisely. There are several printing establishments and two German-language newspapers; also two companies of German militiamen to protect the city in case of need. Last summer we had a Negro rebellion and it was necessary to shoot their leaders before they dispersed.

The State of Ohio does not tolerate slaves, but Kentucky—on

the other side of the river—is a slaveholding state. Recently I visited Lindenhein in Louisville in Kentucky, and I saw about twenty slaves tied together and brought to the boat, to be shipped to New Orleans, where they will be sold. Slave markets are somewhat on the order of our cattle markets, with one difference: a farmer will lash his cattle himself, if necessary, but a slave-holder is too lazy, and he has this done for him by paying a lashing tax (*Prugel-tax*). When the slave man is separated from his wife or children, they will start a heart-breaking howling, and when the owner is a brute—and this is the case most of the time—he will order all of them lashed until they keep silent and submit to their cruel fate. Last summer an ill-treated slave killed the child of his master, and they wanted to put him in jail to sentence him to death by giving him a legal trial, but, on the way to the jail, an angry crowd snatched him from his guard, put a chain around his legs and a second under his arms, hung him between two trees, built a big fire under him and burnt him alive.

About twenty boats arrive at and leave Cincinnati daily. This is an important business center with a wonderful location, and almost everything can be obtained here. The style of building allows fires to spread very rapidly and hardly a week passes without a big fire. We do not pay much attention to this any more unless the fire is in the immediate neighborhood. The fire brigades have excellent equipment; about every forty steps are big containers filled with water, and steam pumps keep them supplied with water taken directly from the river. We have four banks with five million dollars capital. There are 106 German Evangelical churches in the State of Ohio and ministers get from two hundred to eight hundred dollars per year.

I speculated in calendars and sold in the past few weeks sixty-one dozen with a profit of about five hundred dollars. There are many ways of earning a living, and I assure you that Christy and I have no desire to return to Germany with the intention of staying there. America is a wonderful country, but one has to get familiar with American ways. I could hardly live in our beautiful Germany any more, where a cruel and needlessly rigorous government draws the marrow out of the good German people.

America has no debt. On the contrary, the treasury has a surplus of twenty-one million dollars. Congress assembled in order to decide what to do with this money. They cannot build canals or railroads, since this would benefit only a few states, and all the states are entitled to a share of the surplus. To permit capital to lie idle in the

treasury would be nonsense and against all American business principles; to hold it for an emergency would be foolishness, since there will be a larger surplus by the end of next year, which will derive from customs on foreign goods and from the sale of land. Well, then, what can they do with it? Congress resolved to divide the surplus between all the citizens of the United States. History has no record that anything like this has ever happened before, and it is hard to imagine that Prussia would ever make a similar present to its subjects.

I wish I had an opportunity to send you a few German-language newspapers, or a German hymnbook, which you will find wherever there is an Evangelical German Church in this country. I am convinced that you would prefer them to those used at home.

All official discussions and transactions are public and the beneficent effect of the freedom of the press is generally acknowledged and utilized. They contemplate founding a German University to preserve the beautiful and efficient German language. The conditions of the German element are growing better, since they are beginning to take a greater interest in the constitution, schools, churches, etc. It would be a good thing for all Germans in this country if a president of German descent were elected. It would improve their general conditions, although these are already much better than in a country which is suppressed by a cruel and unjust ruler.

Marie Stein mentioned to me that she too would like to come to America. If she earns a living, I would advise her to stay over there, if not, she may come over here by traveling via Bremen and New Orleans to Cincinnati and can find out where we live by asking Mr. John Imhoff on Main Street. She can earn a good living with knitting and sewing and I will assist her as much as I can. However, it will be necessary for her to save a hundred dollars or at least a hundred Prussian *Taler*.

Carpenters, joiners, bricklayers, shoemakers, tailors—especially cleaners and pressers—hatters, bakers, brewers, blacksmiths, butchers, watch-makers, gun-powder makers, and gunsmiths are paid very well, provided they know their trade; also music teachers, if they can give concerts.

It is very seldom that ministers and teachers earn a good salary, and they are so dependent that they never know when they may lose their positions. Ministers who do not preach strictly within the understanding and wishes of their congregation run a chance that the parish council will replace them. Seven votes out of twelve will be

enough to dismiss them, and this will cause much unhappiness, particularly when they have no other way of making a living. The council will elect another pastor, sometimes a fellow who was a tailor or something else, it does not make much difference. He must have a stainless character, must know how to read and write, and must have a penetrating voice. Whether or not he knows the Bible is not taken into consideration. In this and some other matters America is far behind Germany, but in thousands of other things it is very much ahead of all Europe.

Navigation and commerce are more developed than in any other country on earth. Passports, licenses, and tax-gatherers (meaning collectors of a local city tax on goods bought outside of the city) are not known. Custom houses are in seaports only, and in this country everybody may do what he likes best. A man may be a woodchopper or a street cleaner at the present time, but this will not prevent him from being a pastor, teacher, or civil servant later on, provided he has the ability.

Please write me in your next letter if the drayman Jorgens paid the 17 *Taler*-14-9 to Arnold Haardt for me, if Aunt Gottfried W. got her money, and also if my father-in-law paid her the fifty *Taler* which were due September 1. I have no financial obligations outside of the loan of 400 *Taler* from Aunt G. and I will pay her off promptly, since I am getting a nice rent from the house in B'feld. It is safe to say that I have no debt and this is certainly a wonderful feeling.

My dear mother, I will take this occasion to remind you to arrange your affairs, as it is always best to have such things in good order. I wish and hope that you and Julchen may have many pleasant years ahead of you, but the day will come when the last survivor must depart this life. It is our duty to see to it that our assets shall go to the right heirs, which will be in your and Julchen's case myself or my children. I should be thankful if you would write us a few words about your wishes in regard to this. When I am ordering goods I shall ask the shippers to notify you on time; this will give you an excellent opportunity to write me a long letter.

How is our dear Aunt Peter W. and how are her daughters? Please assure her that we are thinking of her often and in love, and extend our regards to her and to our friends and relatives; give each only such information about us as you consider wise. Do not send this letter to Löhne, since they may not like it when they hear the truth. The father may think Carl kindhearted and only weak, and he may never believe that Carl is foolish and lazy.

Do you know of anybody in or around Lennep who wishes to

emigrate to this country? You may refer to me anyone who would like to get some information or who wishes to come to Cincinnati. I shall gladly assist those who are sincere to the best of my ability. The best and cheapest way to travel is via Bremen to New Orleans and from New Orleans by steamboat in ten days to Cincinnati.

They say that Missouri is very unhealthy and conditions are worse in Texas on account of the horrible wars, which devastate everything. German emigrants are better off in Cincinnati, as the climatic conditions are about the same as in Germany, the air is pure and healthy, and the possibility of earning a living is good. Those who do not know English have a better chance, since there are many Germans here and perhaps 10 per cent of them belong to the better-educated class.

We live about the same way as in Germany. In the morning we have coffee, wheat bread, and butter; at noon a nice piece of meat, which is better and cheaper than in Germany, with potatoes and cabbage—on Sundays soup, and in the evening coffee or tea. Christiane takes care of the household and of the children, who often play *Grossmutter und Tante*, “grandmother and aunt”—and I attend to my business. In the evening, when the children are in bed, I read to Christy from the Bible, or *Hasenkamp's Letters*, or something else. Sunday mornings Christy and I alternate in going to church. There is no church in the afternoon, and we spend our time visiting the Backhaus or the Pauck family, or they call on us, and we serve coffee, bread, and butter.

When the weather is bad we stay at home and pass the time by talking about our beloved ones who stayed in Germany, about this country, or our dangerous and troublesome trip, or our experiences on the farm, etc.; and our conversation will always wind up with: “Our Lord guided us well, He protected and shielded us from danger and injury, and He showed us immeasurable kindness which far exceeded our comprehension.” The many fine German books which we brought with us give us much pleasure, and we realize now what a great treasure they represent.

How is everyone in Osnabrück? Please tell them that we are getting along fine. The children are growing and thriving like flowers in a hothouse. Mathilde speaks a little English already, Carlchen is very lively and not so wilful as formerly, Fritzchen has been able to walk by himself since last Christmas, and every one of them has rosy cheeks. Mathilde has red hair (*ganz fuchsige Haare*) and she is going to be very beautiful. She is real plump and so strong that she can lift the chubby Fritzchen out of his cradle. She prefers to

play with her doll rather than knit and she is very handy. We remark frequently that she could be a great help to her grandmother if we were in Lennep. She likes to be flattered and is fond of kissing and caressing; she can set the table, put the chairs in their places, she is well behaved but somewhat vain—in short, she would be grandmother's darling.

The boys are real boys. Carlchen never rests one minute; his hands, feet, and mouth are in constant motion. Just now Mathilde complained to me that her mother had told her a falsehood. She said: "Mother told me that Christmas was at the door (*Weihnachten steht vor der Thür*), and when I opened the door quickly, there was nothing to be seen, no tree, no toys and no cakes." This was a great disappointment to her and made her little heart heavy; and if grandmother were here, she would hasten to give her something extra good to console her. It is not very difficult to please a child, and the little ones are just as lovable as their dear mother.

When I am a successful business man I shall send Carl to Europe as buyer; however, we must have a little patience and must wait until he grows up. By that time I may take a trip myself. There is no reason why we should not cherish the hope that we shall see each other again; stranger things than this happen every day. Christiane would like to add a few words, and I shall close for the present by saying: Farewell! Farewell! Farewell!

Dearly beloved Mother and dear Sister Julia:

I think you will be pleased to get a few lines from me and I am sure you are glad to hear that we are well. Please remember us and think of me and my present condition. Give our heartfelt greetings to our dear aunts Peter and Gottfried Wulfin, and to our dear cousins, and remember us in kindness, as we include all of you often in our chats. May our dear Lord unite us in His realm, where neither mountains nor oceans can separate us. That all of you may enjoy the best of health is the wish of your affectionate daughter, sister, and cousin,

CHRISTIANE WULFIN.

Dear Grandmother:

I cannot write yet but I must tell you that I am your dear, nicest, and best Mathildchen. Mother said to father just now that this will surely please you. I love, hug, and kiss you with all my heart.

Your dear MATHILDCHEN.

December 26.

Please write in detail if and when you wrote us, how you wrote the address, and also if you received letters from us and on what dates. We celebrated Christmas quietly in our home, but in our thoughts we were in Lennep and talked about former times.

If you know of a steam cleaner and presser who is willing to bring his cleaning and pressing machine over, or at least, who knows enough about the machine to show a manufacturer how to build them, he could accumulate a fine fortune within a few years, provided, however, that he is a reliable person. Silversmiths can earn much money, also barbers; if young Ackerman is inclined to come over here I should advise him to do so. Successful clerks are few in number, but skilled laborers have the best opportunity to make headway. These possibilities are even greater in the southern states; however the climate is not so good for Germans and they have to endure more privations. I am amused when I recall the wrong ideas we had in Germany about America.

Duden caused much harm with his book, and I believe he took a great responsibility upon himself; however, he did not tell a lie as far as I can see. He outlines the life of a farmer, and I believe that a day-laborer who has no possibility of ever being anything else in Germany would not be disappointed on a farm, where he can become independent and well off. But through Duden's and several other books many people belonging to other classes have been induced to emigrate, and many have regretted the step later on, for example Carl, who does not wish to be a merchant and who did not learn a trade. Fritz, Pauck, and I do not regret that we left Germany.

Generally speaking, a merchant must have capital to be successful in Germany. In this country the lack of money can be overcome by a spirit of enterprise and by diligence; and respectable conduct is frequently all that is needed to get credit. Fritz, as well as I, could buy a stock worth a thousand dollars on credit terms. I do not like to make use of this, as I prefer to do business in a small way; I pay cash for all purchases and this will give me a good credit-rating. German penny pinchers are not known; Americans do not worry much about the future. If a fellow has only one dollar left, he does not mind spending it, as most people feel that tomorrow will take care of itself; they can work a day and this will give them money to cover their needs.

To do business is not very difficult when you know the American ways. I earned six dollars yesterday. A few days ago I happened to be in a coffee house and heard that the owner wanted to buy goods

for which he was willing to pay twelve dollars. I knew where to get these for seven dollars on the same street. I bought the goods for him, took a round-about way, delivered the same and made five dollars profit in about fifteen minutes. Of course this does not happen every day, but there are similar chances every hour of the day; more than once I could not find time to eat lunch.

There are four different market-places in Cincinnati and there is a market every day. Even leading citizens do not mind buying meat, butter, eggs, chickens, etc.; ladies do this rarely. Newspaper men deliver their papers on horseback and put them behind the door-knob or throw them on the steps, but they do not take the time to ring the bell. Bakers deliver their goods in elegant one-horse carts, but do not alight; they have a large bell to announce their presence, the housewife goes to the cart and buys her daily needs. We bake our own bread, usually one loaf every other day and we do this in our stove, which is equipped for this. Milk is delivered in the same way as the bakery goods. Wood is used for fuel in preference to coal, but it is getting more expensive every year; it will not be very long before coal will be cheaper. Almost all chairs are made of wood and some are very fancy. Bedsteads are without side-pieces and the support consists of rope on which the bedding rests.

Cincinnati is built like this: [See drawing on opposite page.] You will find our home where I marked W on Elm Street between Ninth and Tenth Streets; Imhoff, I, on Main Street between Third and Fourth Streets; Backhaus, B, on Fifth Street between Elm and Broadway; Pauck, P, on Washington Street between Fourth and Fifth Streets. We buy most of our goods from Imhoff. The city is beautifully located on the Ohio River, surrounded by hills and built in a semicircle. Between Third and Fourth Streets is a slight elevation of about sixty feet which forms two terraces. It is gradual and hardly to be noticed. All streets are wide and straight and have wide brick sidewalks for pedestrians. When the weather is clear and the wind in the right direction we can hear the steamboat whistles.

January 22, 1837.

The other day we had a letter from Löhne which was dated June, 1836, and nothing was mentioned about you. We already have four letters from father and not one from you. Martin van Buren was elected President of the United States; his parents came from Holland and the Germans have much faith in him.

Do not forget to send our hearty greetings to our dear Aunt

Gottfr. W. and her children, to Springmanns in Osnabrück, and particularly to cousin .² I shall write to Löhne directly and you need not tell them that you received this letter.

Now, my dearest mother and Julia, farewell and write us soon. I hope you are enjoying the best of health when this letter reaches you. Give our regards to our friends and relatives and remember us in kindness. It may be that I shall write to B. in R. soon, and if I do, I shall enclose a short letter for you. Do not wait for it, but write us very soon. If you write the address exactly as given, I can see no reason why letters from Lennep should not arrive just as promptly as letters from Löhne. Once more, Farewell! Farewell!

Affectionately your son and brother,

GUSTAVUS WULFING.

I shall give this letter today, January 22, 1837, to a friend who is leaving for New York and also a second letter for Löhne. Both letters will go together from New York to the firm of Gloystein & Gevekoth in Bremen, whom I will ask to mail each letter separately. When I get an answer from either of you I shall feel certain that both letters have arrived safely. I do not believe that a letter will be lost after it gets as far as Bremen.

Once more many thousand hearty greetings from all of us:

MAXIMILIAN, GUSTAVUS, FRIEDERIKE, CHRISTIANE,
JOHANNE, LOUISE, MATHILDE, CARL, HEINRICH,
WILHELM, little GUSTAVUS and FRITZCHEN, and also
DOROTHEA JULIA (*in Hoffnung*).

Weit entfernt von unserm Vaterlande
Und von dem, was unserm Herzen nah,
Schiffen muthig wir zum fernen Strande,
In das freie Land Amerika.

Schmerzlich war's den Wanderstab zu fassen
Und auf immer aus der Heimath gehn;
Denn das Land, das traurig wir verlassen—
Ach, das Land der Väter ist so schön!

Durst nach Schätzen trieb uns nicht von dannen,
Nicht die Schuld, die's eigne Herz verklagt;
Aber Willkühr schändlicher Tyrannen
Die am Mark des deutschen Volkes nagt.

Wunden, die des Schicksals Mächte schlagen
Trägt der Mensch, denn Gott hat sie beschert,
Aber sklavisch Menschenjoch zu tragen
Das ist keines freyen Menschen werth!

² The name is missing in the original text.

Drum lebt wohl, die ihr daheim geblieben,
Fern auch seid ihr unserm Herzen nah;
Was sich liebt wird sich auch ferne lieben,—
Deutsch bleibt's Herz auch in Amerika!

Trocknet denn ihr heissen Abschiedsthränen,
Gott mit uns!—nur Er sey unser Hort!
Wellenrosse mit den Silbermähnen
Trugen uns zu dem ersehnten Port!

When we left the fatherland's domain,
On the sturdy vessel to embark
For America and freedom's reign,
Bravely we passed through the hour dark.

Though who would not at such parting grieve?
Our burning tears could not be banned,
As for ever we were taking leave
From the fathers' dear and beauteous land.

Never guilt, which makes the conscience cower,
Nor the lust for treasure made us part;
But the despicable tyrants' power,
Eating, canker-like, Germania's heart.

Wounds inflicted by ill-fortune's stroke
Can be borne, for God deserts us not;
But to bear, like slaves, despotic yoke
Is unworthy of a freeman's lot.

Fare ye well, then, ye we left behind us,
Our love for you will ever stay;
Close to German hearts you'll always find us
On Columbia's shores, though far away.

Dry, then, tears; begone departure's pains!
Let us trust in God; Oh, be it thus!
Neptune's horses with their silver manes
To the port we craved have carried us.³

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, May 25, 1837.

My Dear Mother and Dear Sister:

Just now I met a Mr. Mallinckrodt, of Dortmund, who is about to take a trip to Germany, and I think it is a wonderful opportunity to send you another letter. To begin with, I wish to tell you that we are feeling fine and well satisfied.

³ It seemed better to insert both the original German verses and Mr. Hirsch's translation at this point. Though neither, perhaps, can lay claim to high poetic distinction, the versions do help to establish in our minds a definite personality.—Ed.

Four weeks ago we moved from Cincinnati to Louisville in the State of Kentucky. In some respects life was more pleasant in Cincinnati, as we had friends among several families, and here we shall have to become acquainted first, but Louisville is better for business. Everything is more expensive here, and I figure our household expenses to be about six hundred dollars per annum. If business continues the way it has been the past four weeks, I hope to lay aside six hundred dollars this year.

Christy expects her baby in four or six weeks and she is feeling unusually well. The children are lively and gay; they talk every day about their little baby sister, which grandmother is going to send from Lennep. Until now we have not heard from you, and you will readily understand how much we should like to get a letter from you. I wrote you September 15, 1835 from Bremerhafen, October 27, 1835 from New York, December 26 from Cincinnati, February 6, 1836 from Cincinnati, and December 11, 1836 from Cincinnati; the last letter left Cincinnati on January 22, 1837. Please write me which of these letters arrived and on what date you received them; also let me know to what address you mailed your answers. When writing, please address your letters as follows:

Mr. Gustavus Wulfin
Louisville, Ky.
Nord-Amerika
via New York
prepaid to Bremen,

and see that the address is written distinctly. I hope to get a reply to my last letter some time during the summer, and I have taken care that your letter will be forwarded from Cincinnati.

Fritzchen had the measles in February and I was laid up for ten days with a severe cold. When Fritzchen began to feel better, and when I was at the worst, Christy spilt a kettle of boiling water over her feet; my condition improved after three days, but Christy was laid up, and it took fully three weeks before she could walk again. It was a terrifying moment for all of us—Fritzchen being sick, I not able to get out of bed, Christy calling for help and crying because of the intense pain—and I was in despair; but our dear Lord helped us, and we soon felt ashamed of our being so discouraged. A neighbor lady wrapped Christy's feet in cotton and after a half-hour she was feeling better, as her pain became more endurable. She was able to tell the doctor how it happened, and he was surprised that she could overcome the pain in such a short time.

We did not hear from Carl for some time as rural mail delivery is poor and many letters are lost. They have a little baby girl. Paucks live in Cincinnati and are getting along all right as far as I know. Fritz and Lindenheim are doing a good business.

On a Sunday in February, while we were talking about you and Germany, etc., our door opened and an old friend walked in, Mr. H. van Nuyss, of Bielefeld. We were highly pleased to see him and we asked him ten different questions before he had time to answer one. A few days ago I met a joiner who came over on the same boat with us, and this reminded us of the horrible storm of September 22-23.

Our home is very comfortable. It is near the Ohio River and so located that we have a view five miles up-stream and four miles down-stream. You do not know how much this means to us. A steam-boat comes or leaves almost every hour of the day. People living in Germany will never be able to understand how active and busy American life really is.

We do not wish to return to Germany with the intention of staying there, but we should like to see all of you again and spend happy hours together. I can relate experiences which would make one listener's hair stand on end, or act as a purgative on the second, or surprise the third so much that he would not know whether to laugh tears of joy or fear. *Wenn jemand eine Reise tut, so kann er was erzählen.* "If you take a journey you can relate many tales," and to travel from Lennep to Louisville, Ky. is not a stone's throw.

On the trip from Cincinnati to Louisville our boat rammed a similar one so hard that eight people fell into the water, but were saved, and the boat was badly damaged. The kitchen of our boat was completely wrecked and also some of the railing. Owing to this fact a young fellow fell overboard several hours later and could not be saved, as our boat was too fast, and he disappeared before our life-boat could reach him. A fortnight ago a boat carrying a cargo of cotton burnt completely on the Mississippi River. Only the captain, five deck hands, and one passenger were saved out of 184 persons; all the others drowned, as no boat was near enough to render help. A boat is arriving this very moment.

Christy had wash day, after which she was very tired and she and the children are sleeping soundly. I like to speak English just as well as German. Christy does not do so well, and Mathildchen acts as interpreter when I am not at home. Mathildchen is learning unusually well and she likes to speak English. You have no idea of the great help she is to her mother. She dresses and undresses the

other children, washes dishes, gets water, bread, milk, etc., and she is so serious about everything that you would think she intended to start her own household. The boys—what can I say about them? They play boyish tricks from four o'clock in the morning until seven o'clock in the evening. Especially Carlchen is acting up the same way as his "old man" did: He is a master in staring at people, leaping, climbing, etc., but all three give us much enjoyment. May our dear Lord keep them healthy and well, and may He help us educate them so that they may praise Him!

What news have you from our fatherland? How are our dear Aunt Peter W. and her family? Have you heard anything from Löhne? Please greet all of them most heartily and tell them that we are getting along very well. I would not mind spending a few weeks over there, but there is too much water between us and the railroad across the ocean has not been completed.

Last winter I witnessed the execution of a murderer who had killed thirty-five human beings and was only twenty-three years old. It is so rough here that hardly a week passes without a murder being committed. They say that thirty-five hundred disreputable women live in this city, without counting the colored ones, and one fourth of the population are colored people. No respectable girl will go out without an escort, and all those who have no escort belong to the thirty-five hundred.

Farewell, beloved ones; keep us in memory and remember us in love. Thousands and thousands of greetings from all of us. May our Lord, who has been kind, continue to protect all of us and lead us to the Land of eternal joy!

Farewell! Farewell! Greetings to friends and relatives!

Affectionately yours,

GUSTAVUS.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, June 11, 1837.

Dear Mother and Sister:

On May 25 I wrote you last and I am writing again today; a friend of mine is leaving for New York and he will take this letter along. We are feeling fine, thanks to our Lord, and enjoy life, and I am earning about twice as much as we need to cover our living expenses. We feel completely at home in this beautiful country, and we take every opportunity to thank our Lord that He has been so kind to us. Mathilde speaks English well, and she and Carl will go to the English school next summer. Both the older children and

Fritzchen are growing so fast that we are surprised. Mathilde is a great help to her mother. Christy expects her baby in two or three weeks, and we hired a maid about a week ago, but hope that Christy will be able to run the household alone after a few months have passed. We have to pay her two dollars per week (three Prussian *Taler*).

Business is fine; last month the receipts amounted to \$124.12½

and the expenses were 40.21½

and I made a net profit of \$83.91

or 120 Prussian *Taler*. June 2 was my best day. I sold goods amounting to \$24.50 with a profit of \$13.20. The average profit is about 200 per cent, but I have already made 1000 per cent profit on some goods. Everybody who is in good health can earn enough here to live comfortably, if he wants to work. You have to keep eyes and ears open and work hard if you want to make headway. It is difficult to explain conditions, and you would hardly believe it, for you have to live here in order to comprehend. Business starts at day-break, and quite often I make enough before breakfast to cover the day's expenses. Every moment is occupied, and Americans say: "Time is money."

We had sad news from Carl yesterday. His house burnt down on March 27, and he could save nothing—no clothes, no beds, and no furniture. We wrote him to come here so that we might talk it over and decide what's best for him to do; I would suggest selling the farm and settling down closer to a city.

Fritz is getting along well and he earns lots of money. He wishes to get married, and it may be that he will go to Germany next year to find himself a little wife. We do not hear much from Pauck and I doubt that he will be a success. Moral firmness, diligence, spirit of enterprise and perseverance are absolutely essential, and he knows these qualities only by hearsay. This is a sad affair for his wife and children.

We should be very much pleased if Marie Stein would make up her mind to come to America to live with us. If her circumstances are about the same as they were when we left, I can only advise her to the best of my knowledge to take this step. To have a faithful friend and companion for Christy is the only reason why I wish she would come over here. If she decides favorably, I will not only meet her with a hearty welcome, but promise that she may stay and live with us. I cannot say more. I would never advise her to do

this if I were not willing to assist her in any way possible to the best of my ability and if I did not think it was a good thing for her. I am convinced she will be very much pleased, later on, that I induced her to come to America, no matter how often she might think during the trip: "O, if I had only stayed at home!"

Ask her to come and see you, and tell her what I have written. If she decides to come, then she should lose no time and sell everything, so that she can pack all her belongings in a single trunk. It is best to bring her clothing along, but buy nothing new, except about one dozen shirts and a pair of good shoes, as these are very high in this country; all other clothing costs about the same. The trunk must not be too big and should not be too heavy for two men to carry, else it would be better to use two trunks; however, they will have to be strong and should lock well. She must bring along her own bedding, which should be sewed in plain grey linen, so that it will not be damaged too much.

A permit to emigrate is not required, but she needs a passport to Bremen. The best way of shipping trunk and bedding is by carrier's-waggon to Gloystein & Gevekohl in Bremen not prepaid and to write these gentlemen in advance to accept and hold them for her. She herself should travel by stagecoach or diligence to Bremen and stay in Kroll's place on Johannis Street, where she will find it good and reasonable.

I would suggest carrying money in Louis d'or, or still better, in five-franc pieces. Whatever expenses she may have before reaching Bremen, it will be best for her to pay in gold and keep the five-franc pieces for herself, to take them across the ocean. In Bremen she must call on Gloystein & Gevekohl and arrange for her transportation to New Orleans, and she must try to get the best possible price. Under no circumstances should she allow them to persuade her to take transportation to New York or Baltimore.

It would be well for her to write to G. & G. first and inquire when a ship is leaving for New Orleans and go to Bremen a few days ahead of that time. In any case it is better to wait in Bremen for two weeks, than to go to New York or Baltimore. In Bremen she can buy a sugar-loaf and dried prunes for one *Taler*.

With a Bible and faith in our Lord you can safely undertake a trip across the ocean.

In New Orleans she may make inquiries in the first German coffee house about a boat to Louisville; take the first boat to Louisville, and will find us here at No. 6 Wall Street, where her journey will come to an end.

The cost will be approximately:

Freight on trunks and bedding to Bremen	5	<i>Taler</i>	
Ticket to Bremen by stagecoach and food	20	“	
Food and shelter in Bremen per week	2	“	
Passport, sugar, prunes	3	“	
Passage Bremen-New Orleans (8 Louis d’or)	45	“	
Food, shelter in New Orleans per week	3	“	
Ticket from New Orleans to Louisville			
	\$7.00)		
Food	\$3.00	15	“
Miscell. expenses: handling trunk and bedding, wine, rusk, etc., etc.		7	“
			<hr/>
			100 Prussian <i>Taler</i>

She will need at least 150 *Taler* to be protected in case of an emergency and she must be very careful that she is not robbed on the ship and elsewhere. It does not make much difference how much money she has when she arrives here, but she should not start out with less than 150 *Taler* to avoid embarrassment. She will get acquainted with her fellow-travelers, and I am sure she will meet respectable people among these.

If she really comes, tell her to bring several pounds of camomile along. What we get here is not very good, and if you will send us the picture of the boys, it would certainly make us very happy. Please write to Löhne, so that she may bring their letters along. I do not know what else to write about this matter, except that we wish her a most pleasant voyage.

How are you and how are Aunt Peter Wulfing and her children? How is everyone in Osnabrück and in Dohr? I have not had a single line from you since we left. I will list my letters:

From	Bremerhafen	September	15, 1835
"	New York	October	27, 1835
"	Cincinnati	December	26, 1835
"	"	February	6, 1836
"	"	December	11, 1836
"	"	January	22, 1837
"	Louisville	May	25, 1837

I have written seven letters and this is the eighth and I have no answer to any of them.

My address is as follows:

Mr. G. Wulfing
Louisville, Ky.
Nord Amerika
via New York
prepaid Bremen.

You may write in place of: via New York, prepaid Bremen—via New Orleans, prepaid Havre de Grace. You will know from my letters which route is cheaper.

Farewell, and may our Lord be with all of us. Greetings to all friends and relatives who inquire about us, and please write soon and keep us in tender memory.

Cordially, Your son and brother,
G. WULFING.¹

Dear Grandmother in Lennep:

I just want to tell you that I am your little dear-heart, *Dein liebes Herzchen bin*, and I am going to write you an English letter soon. Father is guiding my hand, but next summer I shall learn to write. Please love me; I am pressing you against my heart.

YOUR DEAR TILLY.

Dear Aunt Julia:

I should like to write if I only had enough patience, but I must go and play in the street. I greet you heartily and I am

Your dear dancing master (*Tanzmeister*)

CARLCHEN.

Dear Grandmother:

I am your dear friendly Fritzchen but cannot write more with my little hands, but greet you and dear Aunt Julia heartily.

I am your dear little FRITZCHEN
Papa's darling.

Dear Mother and dear Sister Julia:

Since everyone of us wrote something, I'd like to add my heart-felt greetings to you and our dear aunts and nieces, and I ask all of you to remember us in love.

Affectionately,

Your Daughter, Sister, and Niece,

CHRISTIANE.

¹ The original letter crossed the ocean by the "Isabelle" and was forwarded to Lennep by H. H. Meier & Co. in Bremen, July 26, 1837. Cancellation stamp reads:

Bremen, July 27th N. D. P. A.
Nord Deutsche Post Agentur.
"North German Postal Agency."

LOUISVILLE, KY., July 23, 1837.

Dearly beloved Mother and dear Sister:

Convinced that getting a letter from us is a welcome surprise for all of you, and, as I have an opportunity to send my letter to Baltimore, I am spending this Sunday afternoon writing you again. We are still without any news from you, and since we have been almost two years in America, you can well understand how deeply we feel this. Knowing in advance that a letter from you will be a great event for all of us, we are most eager to hear from you soon.

We feel different about the letters from Löhne. They do not please us, because they contain more or less falsehood, slander, and baseness. The "Governor" wrote in his last letter, of January 16 of this year, that he paid twenty *Taler* to Aunt Gottfr. W. for me, in place of the fifty *Taler* agreed upon. I prefer to say nothing about his rather unkind and hypocritical remarks. Please tell Aunt Gottfr. when you have an opportunity that she should not feel uneasy about my loan of 400 *Taler*, as I have no intention to defraud her, even if I am injured by deception and sophism. If our good Lord continues to protect me as He has heretofore, I shall soon be able to pay her back myself. Until such time she will have to take my good intentions as security, but our honest name of Wulfing should be guaranty enough for the paltry sum of 400 *Taler*. I could force the "Governor" to pay the 50 *Taler* each year, since I have enough in writing, but I do not wish to do so.

Christiane and I do not wish to write a single line to Löhne unless he writes first and admits that he was in the wrong. I wish to show him that the assertion that I married Christy only on account of her money exists merely in his mind. I had to hear this often enough, and he is repeating it again in his letters. I am indeed afraid that he is mentally deranged to a certain degree, as he says in the same letter: *Ueb' immer Treu' und Redlichkeit*"—(a German folk song), reminding us that faithfulness and honesty should always be our first consideration—and, my dear mother, you will readily understand that I am not any more the same person, and that I have become a different man. He wrote: "It would be well, if"—No! I had better drop the subject, as it will not sound well, and I feel ashamed for him.

I wish to say only a few more words about this matter. Please tell Auntie to accept any amount which he may pay in my name, and to acknowledge receipt; and I ask you to refrain from corresponding with Löhne. Please do not inquire any more if they received a letter from us. We sent our last letter to Löhne in January of this year, and much time will pass before they will get another

one. It may be well not to tell them anything about your letters, as I do not wish to have any more dealing with the whole bunch (*ganzen Sippschaft*). The time will come when they may realize that I will not sacrifice my self-respect, and I will never lower myself, since I value my good name just as much—without possessing a fortune—as they value the name of Schmieding—with their fortune of eight thousand *Taler*.

I saved in May eighty-three dollars and ninety-one cents, in June forty-three dollars and forty-three cents, and this month perhaps twenty-five dollars. Next month it may be nothing, but business will pick up again, and I can figure on a net earning of about one hundred dollars per month for September, October, and November. Since a dollar is worth one and a half *Taler*, I cannot value the "Governor's" fortune as highly as he does. Please do not think that I am angry at the "old man" because he is depriving me of a few *Taler*, as this is not the case. It would be unworthy of a free American citizen. However, his letters are filled with hypocrisy, impertinence, sophism and—what makes it worse—with insults for those I love and respect, who give me cause to respect them, and who are dearer to me than he is with his priest-ridden clergy in Löhne. That's enough now! It had to come out of my system! It is out, and everything will be all right.

Now for a glass of cold, refreshing water—and I will continue.

Dear Mother:

I wrote on September 15, 1835, from Bremerhafen, on October 27, 1835, from New York, February 6, 1836, from Cincinnati, January 22, 1837, from Cincinnati, May 25, 1837, from here, and my last letter was dated June 11, 1837. Please write my address precisely as I put it down for you:

Mr. G. Wulfing
Louisville, Ky.
Nord Amerika
via New York
prepaid Bremen.

On July 4 my dear Christiane gave birth to a little girl. The baby suffered from the beginning such convulsions that we were afraid we should not have her very long, and we had her christened Juliet Dorothy the next day. She passed away on the third day. She was a sweet baby with a beautiful little body. Our good Lord in His infinite grace allowed her to join His holy angels.

Christiane had a very bad time when the baby was born, but now

all is well. We employed a maid but dismissed her a week ago, as Christy is well able to take care of our household. Our other children flourish and grow, skip and jump, speak English or German, play foolish pranks and make lots of rumpus, and eat to their hearts content. Mathilde has gone to the home of a playmate, Carl is next to me shaking the table continuously so that I can hardly write, Fritzchen is helping his mother and—the mother is falling asleep.

We are very happy here, we have neither debt nor claim, we live well and have no sorrows, we mind our own business, and find our greatest happiness in loving each other and our children; we retire trusting in God, and rise without worries, we have neither servant nor maid, no dog and no cat, no aggravations, and our home is clean. We do not contemplate returning to Germany with the intention of staying, except, if able to live on our interest. I prefer to stay in America as long as I have to be in business to make a living, since conditions are very much better in this country. I can well understand why August Bornefeld did not wish to return. American and German business conditions compare with each other as a mansion in Elberfeld with an old hut near your home.

Whatever you may hear from Löhne—good or bad—I suggest that you believe only what I am writing you. I promised you when I left—and I think it is my duty—to write nothing but the absolute truth about America; I gave you my “Wulfing’s word of honor” which I value more highly than “gentleman’s word of honor” that I would do this. I mentioned in a previous letter that I made my first twenty-five cents chopping wood, and this was correct. Now I can write that we are getting along fine and that we are happy and well satisfied.

How are you feeling? How are our dear Aunt Peter W. and her children? How is everybody in Dohr, in Osnabrück, and in Barmen? I almost believe that Cousin Fridr. Spr. would be better off in America than over there. What did Marie Stein say about my last letter? Is she willing to come? If Dina wishes to come with her Julius, I will promise to pay his traveling expenses, it would be a good thing for the young man; but, that’s in vain, you would not be able to understand it, even if you have full confidence in my opinion.

*Dear Mother:*¹

What else is new in our home-town? If I could spend only two weeks with you, I should entertain you by telling my experiences in

¹ This and the following letter were probably appended later than July 23, perhaps only a day or two later.

such a manner that you would laugh and cry at the same time, as little children do. One thing is certain: circumstances have changed considerably; the boy who had to take orders has become a matured man who can give orders, and if you could see me now, you would feel like taking your hat off to me.

Our experiences differ a great deal from the experiences of boasters who went to Hachenberg, or saw the fair in Elberfeld. New York, Philadelphia, etc., compared with Kunsthöhe and Garschhagen—the ocean we crossed compared with the Rosskotter Lake—please do not feel hurt—but the difference is too great!

What are von Bergs in R. doing? Please tell Carl von Berg that we are getting along unusually well and ask him to mention this to his mother in Remscheid.

I had in mind to import goods from Germany, but I will not do so for the time being, as I can buy American goods more reasonably. The day before yesterday I sold a pistol for twenty dollars which cost nine dollars, and everybody thought it exceptionally cheap. It is easy to explain this. People who trade in furs travel one to two thousand miles through the wilderness and when they come here, they have plenty of money but no conception of the value of goods. They gaze at such things with astonishment, just as a cow stares at a newly painted barn-door—and they buy them.

What else can I write about? First of all greetings to our dear Aunt Peter W. and kisses by turns to our dear cousins, and inform them of the contents of this letter. Greetings to Burcher and all friends and relatives.

Fritz is well off, Pauck not so fortunate, but moderately comfortable, and Carl is bad off. He has had bad luck since his home burnt down, and, unfortunately, he is not man enough to help himself. We wrote him to come here and we will help him as much as we can. He is still living in the country.

Dear Mother and dear Sister:

I shall have to finish now, as the paper is filled and I do not know what else to write about. I trust that I may hear something from you soon. If Marie Stein comes, tell her to wrap as much as possible in old newspapers, as they will be very interesting for us to read. Mathilde and Christiane have asked me to send their best wishes to you. If you want to have a nice time, just drop in some Sunday afternoon, as we have a vacant room for you and the most beautiful view I ever saw. A steamboat is passing my window just now and a

second is arriving. I can see two more steamboats upstream and about ten or twelve small boats in which ladies and gentlemen are having a nice ride.

We are having a very hot summer this year. I must finish now, as the mosquitoes annoy me awfully.

Farewell! Farewell! Farewell!

Keep us in kind memory, and heartiest greetings to all of you,
Affectionately,
Your son and brother,
G. WULFING.

LOUISVILLE, KY., August 21, 1837.

Dearly beloved Mother and dear Sister:

About a week ago we had a day of great joy, as we finally got your letter of April 24, 1836. The Barmer missionary transmitted your letter to pastor Lauer in Cincinnati and unfortunately he did not know us. However, he held the letter from last fall and forwarded same when he accidentally heard my name mentioned. Since then I have made a trip to see Carl and to collect for the furniture which we used in the country, and when I returned yesterday, Christiane handed me your letter of April 16 of this year.

Before saying anything else we wish to thank you very much for your kind letters, which gave us very much pleasure. I cannot tell you how often we have read them already. I wrote you on May 25, June 11, and July 23 in addition to the letters which you acknowledged, and I hope that they have arrived by the time you get this letter. I will not send anything via Löhne or Bünde, since I prefer to write to you directly, and you would get very little information from us if this were the only way to send it. Your first letter was apparently lost.

It was very thoughtful of you to send us the funeral oration and to give us a description of the last days of our late sister Christy. You write: "How are you getting along financially? It worries me." I have already answered this question, as I wrote you that we have no financial troubles and it would be foolish of you to worry about it. I need more money in my present business than on the farm, that's true, but in spite of this, I was able to help Carl, who was burnt out, with a loan of fifty-two dollars. I am writing this to show you that we are getting along all right, but I do not wish you to mention this to anyone. I pay \$170.00 rent per year, and for food and clothing about one and a half to two dollars every day. Up to now I have had a surplus every month. This month we hope to break even,

since business is somewhat slow, but we expect business to be better in the fall.

Many thanks for the news, which were very interesting to us. I may write to Wm. Lehmann some time in the near future. It seems that the matter about the probate duty caused you very much trouble. I think it would be well if you could lease the property to Burcher for ten to twelve years in preference to renting it out for a few years only. Please send all your letters "prepaid Bremen," since this is cheaper for you. I will send this letter by a friend who leaves for New Orleans or perhaps for Germany tomorrow. It would interest me to know by what route you get my letters, you can tell this by the cancellation stamp.

Since writing last our dear Tilla has been very sick. She lost much weight and was nothing but skin and bones. However, she is better again and can eat all day long. The other children are feeling fine. Fritzchen is as broad as he is long and he is learning tricks. He can lift one foot, but he does not forget to hold himself tight with both hands, as he believes in safety first. Nothing seems to annoy him, he takes everything for granted without getting worked up about it; he is satisfied when he gets what's due him, and he seems to like enjoyment.

Carl's character is quite the opposite. He jumps, races, and takes all sorts of chances. He hardly takes time to eat, and from morning to evening you can hear him ask: "What does this mean? What does that mean?" The boy reminds me very much of my own childhood. He is playing all the boyish tricks which I used to play and he is very skilful about everything. He is an expert in catching mice, winding clocks, tinkering, and teaching tricks to dogs. He does not lose his temper so quickly any more, finds pleasure in giving things, and we are very much pleased with him. He is very intelligent and tender-hearted and unusually friendly, but unrestrained and so full of life that we often wonder where he gets the strength to race and jump all day. He is healthy, but I believe that Fritzchen weighs just as much as he does.

Our little daughter is advanced for her years and somewhat peevish owing to her sickness, but I am sure she will be over it before you get this letter. We are very proud of her; she likes to help her mother and she tries to get the boys to be orderly and quiet.

My dear mother, you have no conception how much the three children are attached to their parents. When I returned in the night from Saturday to Sunday¹ they would not stay in bed, they shouted

¹ This apparently means late Saturday night.

with joy and one awoke the other one. Carl and Mathilde called again and again: "Father's back! Father's back!" At last the little one awoke too: "Papa bring som'ding? Papa bring cake?"—and then all three in my lap; such excitement—and we were all as happy as could be. Carlchen wanted to know: "Papa, did you earn enough money so that mother may make pancakes?"

Carl and Mathilde will go to school next winter; mother is teaching them the ABC's now. Quite often we talk to them about you. Mathildchen still remembers a few things, she remembers her dear Aunt Christy, who is now in Heaven with grandpa of Lennep, very well. Mathildchen looks at me with her big eyes and begs of me heartily to ask you to visit us, and Carlchen promises to be real good, but he wants grandma to bring a little baby sister, because "our other sister" died. I could fill six more pages writing about our children but I will discontinue, as there are other things I want to write about.

As I told you before, we have good reason to thank our Lord that He has led us to this country, and I assure you that we do not wish to return to Germany. Fritz is also doing well and we keep up friendly relations with him; therefore, I was glad that you mentioned nothing about Löhne. If you want to write anything about father, etc., please do so on a separate sheet of paper. Pauck lives in Cincinnati and he has a hard time, but I think he is earning enough to cover his needs. I feel sorry for his wife and children, as he is not a good husband and father. He writes many lies to Löhne and Bielefeld—e. g., that he owns horses and a wagon, and earns from three to ten dollars per day. Father believes him and writes us: "God grant that Christy is as happy as the Paucks are, etc." But Fritz writes to Löhne too, and he describes the conditions as they really are, and this should open father's eyes unless he is absolutely blind. Father is good and he loves his children, but he lacks knowledge of the world, and he cannot distinguish between hypocrisy and candor, or falsehood and truth. He would like to, but he can't do it, and I can readily understand this. However, the smart members of the family like to be on the safe side; but that he should believe all the silly statements of Pauck's, that is something that I cannot understand, and it shows a weak character.

Carl lost all his clothing and furniture and they could save nothing; except what they had on their backs. I induced him to come to Louisville, Fritz will give him a suit, etc., and we shall give him clothing for his wife and child; and we both shall help him financially to the best of our ability, in spite of the fact that he did

not treat us right in Bielefeld. He needs our help now, and we thank our Lord that we can help him without depriving ourselves. They have a little girl three to four months old, who is very healthy, and I can safely say that I have not seen a prettier baby for a long time. Christy and Mathilde are very eager to see the baby; she is round as an apple, has big blue eyes, and seems to be happy. Carl and Minna understand each other better now; the sweet baby and their sad experience taught them to be more lenient with each other, and to make allowances for their whims and weaknesses; however, their married life will never be as happy as ours is.

As I wrote you before, please do not correspond with Löhne; let them do what they want. We intend to write to you quite often, but it will not be necessary for you to send any of our letters to Löhne. Give them to the aunt in Dohr and to Aunt P. and tell her that I will do the right thing by her. With the help of God I hope to be able to pay her back soon. If it should enter father's mind to send nothing further for my account to Aunt P. W., then I should appreciate it if she would write him directly. It would be well for her to send him a copy of his own letter in which he promised to pay her fifty *Taler* per year for me. Father wrote to Aunt that the taxes were much more than I had stated, and this is a gross lie unless they have introduced new taxes or increased the quartering tax.¹ The excellent board of family-councilors checked my figures over several times and they found them to be correct. I cannot be held responsible for father's strange mentality.

We are pleased to see that every one of you is feeling fine and I can say the same about us. Mathildchen is improving and she does not need any more medicine. Your description of Christy's last days interested us very much. She is over her sufferings now and without any doubt happy in heaven.

I approve of the arrangement which you made with Burchers; please give them our kindest regards. Ed. Oellermann seems to be afraid to come to America; believe me, many people are living over there who would be better off in this country. I wish you could live here, but the voyage is too troublesome for you. What do you think about it? Could you make up your mind to come to America if I came over to call for you? I am glad that you sold your garden, and I suggest that you sell the meadows, etc. also if you can get a fair price now. Very likely you will not get much for them at a time when you may have to sell.

¹ A tax imposed on property owners unless they provided shelter to soldiers allotted to them at certain times of the year.

It was good that you paid no attention to the other heirs. Keep Burcher as long as possible, but tell him that he will have to vacate if you are compelled to sell, unless he can buy the place himself. Please do not worry about the future; our good Lord has helped us all before and He will continue to protect us.

It is my opinion that it would be best to sell everything, in case of your and Julia's departure, with the exception of linen and clothing. These should be turned over to Aunt P. W. or to one of her children, with instructions to hold them for my disposition. Family portraits and books should be kept for me; they are too valuable to be disposed of. Our beds should be sold, as it is not advisable to ship them over to this country.

If I should draw up your will, no notary would accept it, as a testament must be made out according to regulations set forth by your laws. All you and Julchen will have to do is to make only one will and testament. You bequeath your entire estate, with no exceptions whatsoever, to Julchen, with the stipulation that I shall be your sole heir, if Julchen should pass away before your death, and that in this case everything should be turned over to so-and-so, as executor of your will, without interference of the probate-court. It will be better if you talk this over with Arnold Moll or with your own lawyer.

With reference to Lotte B., I think that you should not pay her 500 *Taler* or any part of it, as her own children are not worthy and they do not deserve such consideration and sacrifice on your part. She herself does not suffer want, she has a regular income, however small it may be, and you have already paid her back by providing her with a home free of charge for many, many years.

Last winter I was very sick, and Dr. Backhaus told me afterwards that I was in greatest danger. If I had passed away so untimely, I should have left my wife and my children unprovided for and in destitute circumstances, which would have been very much worse than Lotte's conditions ever were. I can advise you with a clear conscience not to pay any more to her than you already have. If T. P. had given up her fortune to pay her husband's debt, she and the children would have a hard struggle now. Since you have already sacrificed your own estate, and that of your children, which came from your mother's side, you should keep whatever little you have left, and you should not suffer any additional loss. This is my candid opinion about the matter, and I am writing this to you because I feel that I owe it to my family; but if it is against your conviction or against your conscience, then give to Lotte whatever you

think is right. I will accept your decision, even if I feel that you should have acted differently, as I am convinced that you have in mind to do the right thing.

It is a disgrace in our so-called enlightened century that the government insists on checking up the books of B. & R. European people censure slavery in America, but do not realize that they themselves are slaves of their oppressors. In Europe the people seem to exist only so that their governments may have someone whom they can persecute, but in America the government is for the people.

Of 1000 Germans who come over here there are 999 who feel happy and at home after being here one year or so, but I doubt very much that there is one American in a 1000 who would feel happy over there. Oh, this is a wonderful country! I applied for American citizenship, and it gave me great satisfaction to renounce by oath my allegiance to the King of Prussia.

It is a pity that so many German newspapers accept and publish foolish articles about America. I know now of my own experience, and not from hearsay, that living conditions in America are by far better than in much-praised Germany. If I had the time I could deal a blow to all the ostentatious and vainglorious boasters who know nothing about America, but have the audacity to write interesting articles on the subject, which however are full of imagination and are not true to facts; most of these are written by parsons and educators who never saw this country. Believe me, mother, I would rather see my children grow up in this country without a fortune, than have them live in Germany with a fortune of 1000 or 2000 *Taler*. I think you will not understand—in short, I thank our good Lord that we are living here. My dear mother, you have no conception how glad we are, and how often we thank God that we are in this country. We are happy and well satisfied, we pay little attention to others, and we live just for ourselves and our children. Our dear Lord grants us much enjoyment—if you could only see the children once more!

Do not fear as to religion, for we will strictly adhere to the teachings of Luther, and our good Lord will save the Wulfings from the clutches of Satan in one way or another. We shall never be influenced by the book you mentioned, as such a bad book should never be called the Bible, and my dear Christelchen feels exactly the same about it.

I heard pastor Schroeder in Bünde at one time, and I think it is fine that he is transferred to Lennep. I feel sorry for Dr. Blasberg, but capital rules the world, and that includes doctors. I am pleased

to see that Roentgen has a job and that he is getting along all right. Please give us all the news you can when you write again, as this is most interesting to us. Christel intends to give you some information about our home, etc., soon. I should like to write much more, but I have not the time, as the letter must go now.

Farewell, farewell, and greetings to our dear aunt and her children. I'd like to write more, but I can't do it—the letter must go.

Farewell, and think of us often,

GUSTAVUS	}	WULFING
CHRISTY		
CARL		
MATH.		
FRIEDR.		

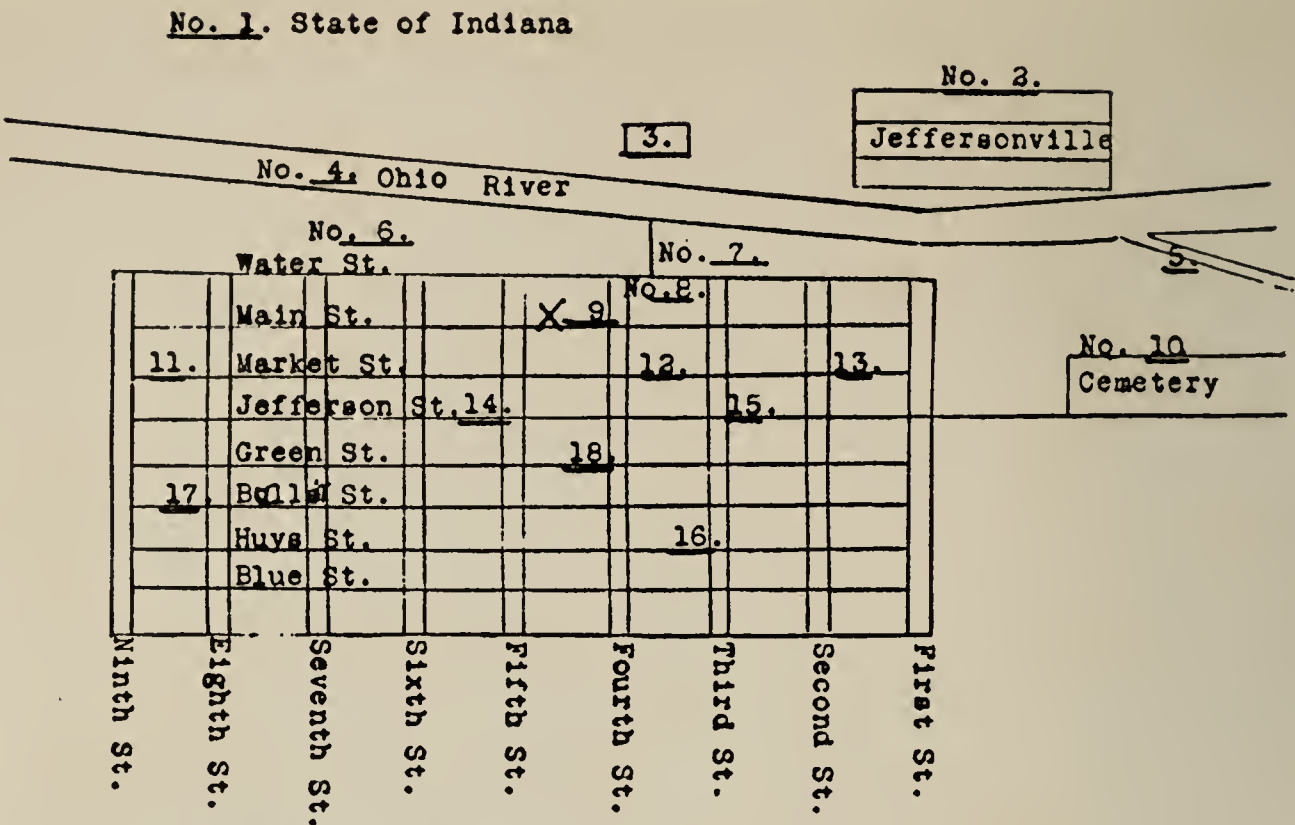
Please write real soon, my address is:

Mr. G. Wulfing
Louisville, Ky.
Nord Amerika
via New York
Postpaid Bremen.

Memo. on letter by Post Office:
An unusually long ocean trip
caused the considerable delay
in delivering this letter.
F. Baumgarten.

P. S. I am adding here plans of Louisville and of the interior of our home.

G. W.

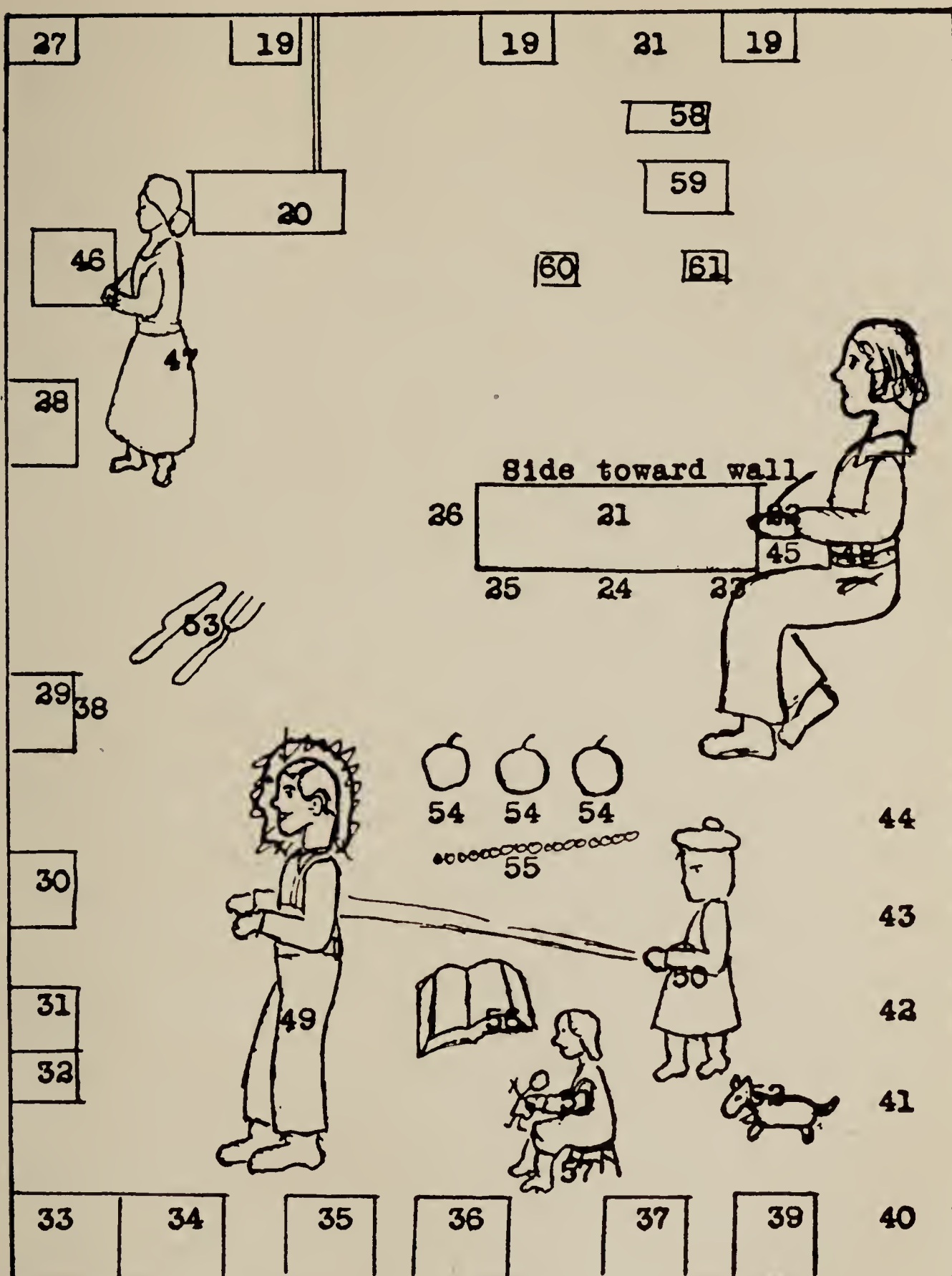


Mountains and Hills with very tall Trees.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| 1. State of Indiana | 8. Our home |
| 2. City of Jeffersonville, about 2000 inhabitants | 9. Home of Fritz and Lindenheim |
| 3. Brick residence with tower—beautiful view. | 10. Grave of our baby |
| 4. Ohio River, pronounced Oheio | 11. } Market Houses |
| 5. Small River | 12. } |
| 6. Paved levee with a drop of fifty feet toward the river | 13. } |
| 7. Distance from our house to river is about 150 steps | 14. German Lutheran church |
| | 15. German school |
| | 16. } English churches |
| | 17. } |
| | 18. Courthouse |

In Explanation of Plan on Opposite Page

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 19. Windows with curtains drawn | 32. Boxes |
| 20. Stove | 33. Double bed |
| 21. Table between two windows against the wall | 34. Bed for children |
| 22. My own | 35. Iron cradle |
| 23. Mathilde | 36. Desk |
| 24. Christy | 37. Chest |
| 25. Fritzchen | 38. Trunk under guest-bed |
| 26. Carlchen | 39. Wardrobe |
| 27. Kitchen table | 40. } |
| 28. Door | 41. } |
| 29. Guest-bed | 42. } Chairs |
| 30. Wall clock | 43. } |
| 31. Table | 44. } |
| | 45. Chair I am using at present |



- 46. Wash-tub
- 47. Mother
- 48. Father writes grandma
- 49. Carlchen playing horsie
- 50. Fritzchen playing driver
- 51. Mathilde playing with doll

- 52. Dog named Poppi
 - 53. Knives & forks
 - 54. Apples
 - 55. Watch chain
 - 56. Picture-book
 - 57. Foot-stool
- } on the floor

The remaining space is used for kitchen utensils and everything is in the best of order. In a small side-room we keep kindling wood, a small barrel, and the wash-tub when not in use.

No. 49—complaint that head is too big, so I drew another one.

Our home is located on Water Street between 3rd and 4th streets.

The space indicated by No. 44 is reserved for a dresser, which we shall buy in the near future.

No. 58 is a permanent calendar, No. 59 a looking glass and No. 60 & 61 are pictures of father and mother.

We hang our clothes on the wall and cover the same with a bed-sheet to prevent them from getting dusty. Two towels hang behind the door. We keep our books on shelves over the desk. A double-barreled gun and a clothes brush hang on the wall above the desk.

What was the name of the teacher in Hachenberg who taught me how to draw? If you would show him the preceding picture, I am quite certain that he would consider it his duty to refund to you the tuition. Christiane complains too—same as Carlchen—and she insists firmly that she looks altogether different from No. 47, but I believe that vanity has something to do with it. Tilla tells me that she is not the smallest one in the family, but I call this real art, since she sits in the background and must appear to be the smallest.

The best solution is that you come over here and convince yourself with your own eyes how we really look. I do not wish to brag about my work of art, but I hold that the greatest artist cannot surpass nature. The children laugh themselves sick about the wonderful picture. Dear Christelchen sits now opposite me on chair No. 26 and she writes about our household and our domestic life. I think it is best for me to drop the subject now and write about trade and traffic, *Handel und Wandel*.

In spite of the fact that times are bad, I earned \$101.00 last month; however, our living expenses must be deducted from this amount. We like it in Louisville and we do not intend to move away from here within a reasonable time. Moving is not so bad as you might think. All important cities are located on rivers in America, as the country is too thinly populated to allow inland towns to grow fast, and you can travel by steamboat comparatively cheaply. It takes about four or five days to get to St. Louis. As conditions in St. Louis are about the same as here, we prefer to stay here. To move to New Orleans would cost \$30.00. Since it is warm in the South, we should save much fuel expense; the climate, however, is unhealthy, and for that reason we do not wish to go there, as many people died of fever during summer and fall. You may think that

I would lose my customers by moving away, but this is not the case in this country. Most of them are strangers who travel on the Ohio River, and I very seldom see the same customer a second time.

About two months ago I went to Cincinnati to buy goods. Pauck was complaining very much, as he earned hardly enough to cover his living expenses. This is his own fault to a great extent; he starts everything wrong, and unfortunately he is not reliable. It is a sad matter for his wife and children. If he should pass away now, he would leave his family in great destitution. Father writes we should follow Pauck's example, as he can well afford to travel through the country with his horse and wagon, since he earns from three to ten dollars per day. The good old soul does not know that these are nothing but lies. Pauck writes him cheerful letters and father expresses the wish that Christy should be equally well provided for. May our good Lord protect us and prevent us from having such "good luck." Fritz is getting along very well and he answered father's letters by telling him the real facts; I am somewhat curious to know what father will write now. We do not intend to write to Löhne anymore unless we get a sensible letter from him first. I prefer to discontinue writing about Löhne and Bünde since I have nothing pleasant to say about them. It is inconceivable how these people act toward us; I do not mean about money matters, but about slander.

Christiane's late mother thought I married—well, you remember without my repeating it—, and father thought I married only on account of the money involved, and he says now, among other things, that I will have to learn what work really means. When we left he wrote an astounding farewell letter in which he extolled Carl in particular to the very skies, and Fritz to a certain extent, and warned me with warm regard to abstain from gambling and drinking, etc. I placed his remarkable letter behind his mirror, for I did not wish that my children should ever see such a letter. It might put an unnecessary doubt in their minds, for they might think that their father was a gambler and drunkard at one time, or, when convinced that this was never the case, then they could not help but think that their grandfather was a slanderer, or at least temporarily insane.

The "old man" mentions now in every letter that I am unable to hear the truth and that I have to hide the facts behind the mirror, etc. Last August he wrote that I would have to break rocks, etc. However Fritz gave him the answer he deserved and he wrote more to the point than I should have done myself. I thank the Lord that my own conscience pronounces me free from the vices which my dear father-in-law charges me with. I consider the whole tribe non-

existing unless they retract everything, word for word. To keep silent is an answer too. I hope that you are sensible enough to marvel instead of feeling offended about this; I have sense enough to realize that it is best to marvel and not to feel offended, but occasionally I have a hard time controlling myself. I feel that I should let them do what they will and bear the consequence.

Carl is in Cincinnati now. I do not know how they are getting along, but I hear from others that he is not well off. I believe this information is correct, for his wife has had to take employment, since he is too stupid and much too lazy to open up a store for himself. He was here about six weeks ago, and Fritz and I tried our very best to assist him, but he does not want to listen, and that makes it impossible for us to help. Fritz as well as Christy, and chiefly my own conscience, agree that I did more than my duty and what I was morally obliged to do in regard to Carl's sad circumstances, and also in reference to the correspondence with Löhne; and that is sufficient for me. I am convinced that you would say the same if you were familiar with all the circumstances. I may add that Fritz did far more for Carl than Carl deserved; he repaid evil with kindness. It was our plan that Carl should come to Louisville, where we can stand behind him every day, and where we have the opportunity to help with advice and assistance. However, he seems to prefer relying on Pauck, whose reputation is none too good in Cincinnati. A few days ago Fritz wrote again to Löhne and explained in detail all the circumstances true to the facts, and there is no doubt in my mind that this will finally open their eyes.

Now I will write about something more pleasant, and that is our children. They grow and flourish to our delight.

Carlchen is full of life and plays all sorts of tricks, he likes to give presents, is gentle and kind-hearted, more forbearing than formerly, and very animated. He wears out three pairs of shoes in the same time the others wear out one pair, he is slender and long-legged, and his pants fit him as if they were glued on. He is a pretty boy, friendly and lively, has bright eyes, and is always doing something, his hands and feet are never at rest.

Mathilde is more playful of late and she is the best behaved; that Christmas is near has something to do with this, I believe. We call Fritzchen frequently the schoolmaster; nothing seems to bother him, and he is satisfied when he has something good to eat. He is just the opposite of Carlchen, somewhat awkward and deliberate; he holds himself with two hands rather than with one hand. He does not look around when at the dinner-table but sticks to eating. Carl

would prefer to run away every few minutes if he were allowed to do so. All three get along well, particularly Mathilde and Fritzchen.

Good night now. Christy stopped writing long ago, and I too feel more like retiring than writing. It is Sunday, November 5, ten o'clock in the evening. Tomorrow more.

November 7.

Christiane finished her letter to you, my beloved ones, and, when reading it over, it occurred to us, that it might be well if you would send her letter to Löhne occasionally, of course only Christy's letter. They will see that we have reason to feel happy about your letters—which is not the case with letters from Löhne—and that we entertain intimate and most pleasant relations.

When missionary Heier traveled from Cincinnati to St. Louis he must have passed our windows. I am sorry that I did not know him; however it is possible that I saw him.

Our dear Mathildchen was very sick this summer due to the unaccustomed climate, but now she is as healthy as she ever was, thanks to our Lord. We were afraid that we might lose our dear child, and this loss would have been a most severe blow to us, indeed beyond description, for the love of our children is our greatest happiness. I cannot express in words how much the little ones mean to us. Everybody likes our children; they are modest yet daring, lively yet courteous, and all three together most of the time. Before going to bed they kiss us first and then each other, and frequently Tilla and Fritzchen play lovers. Mathilde takes Fritzchen often in her lap, and Carlchen sits next to them; Tildchen tells a touching story of three lovely children who were given fine toys by their grandmother, Aunt Julia, and Aunt Christine, who is now in heaven.

The sympathy shown by our relatives from Osnabrück impressed us deeply, and we ask you to send to all of them our greetings and particularly to our dear Cousin Jettchen Springmann.

Please give Aunt Peter W. and her children as much information from our letters as you wish and send them extra greetings. I think you will get this letter about the New Year, and we wish to extend to you our best wishes for the New Year and many more to come; and may our good Lord bless you and us with everything we need for our temporal and eternal salvation. We feel sorry that our dear Cousin Fr. Springmann is so sickly; may our dear Lord be with him and help him in his distress and suffering. Give our hearty regards and our most heartfelt condolence to the Roentgens.

Carl's fire loss could be easily overcome if he were a real man; as I said before, we helped him to the best of our ability, and he could make headway if he would do his share; but since he does not listen, he will have to take his own skin to market—which means that nobody can help him if he doesn't help himself. His home was not insured, as insurance companies are just beginning to form in this country.

Fritz may not go to Europe before 1839, and this is not certain. If he goes, it is likely that he will travel via New Orleans and Havre de Grace, and he may pass through Lennep. I dropped my idea of buying German goods for the time being, as I get a good profit on American-made goods. The main reason is I would have to go to Germany to pick out the right kind which would be suitable for American demands. We were very much pleased to hear that you celebrate our birthdays; Carlchen's birthday is on the 7th, and not on the 6th of July. We hope and pray that our good Lord may allow our dear mother to remain with us for a long time, and that He will lighten her bodily affliction and give you, my dear Julia, strength to take care of her.

They have unique chairs in this country which are called rocking-chairs, and mother would find them very comfortable. I wish I could send her one. Also friendly greetings to M. Stein. Please write us more about your new pastor, as this is of great interest to us. You asked me if I did not wish to visit Lehmann. My answer is: "No." He is an educationist, and I am convinced that he would not be much help to me, as my occupation is all Greek to him.

My business transactions are simple and they do not require much advice. The whole secret is to buy cheaply and to sell at the highest price possible, to spend less than you earn, and to trust in our Lord. As I had mentioned before, business is good and I am satisfied; I would not be thankful for the favors our good Lord is granting me, if I were dissatisfied. You will see from my statement that I made a net profit of \$170.00 or 250 Prussian *Taler* during the six months we have been living in Louisville.

SALES:	GROSS PROFIT:	EXPENSE: STORE AND HOUSEHOLD:	NET PROFIT:	MONTH:
\$333.48 $\frac{3}{4}$	\$124.12 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$40.21 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$83.91	May
259.58 $\frac{3}{4}$	107.25	65.82	43.43 $\frac{3}{4}$	June
134.57	58.36	51.18 $\frac{3}{4}$	6.29	July
96.84 $\frac{3}{4}$	34.53 $\frac{3}{4}$	55.26	20.72 $\frac{1}{4}$ Loss	Aug.
198.06 $\frac{1}{4}$	87.25	52.43 $\frac{3}{4}$	34.81 $\frac{1}{4}$	Sep.
271.06 $\frac{1}{4}$	101.43 $\frac{3}{4}$	75.56 $\frac{1}{4}$	25.87 $\frac{1}{2}$	Oct.

Our expenses were somewhat greater in June and October owing to the fact that we bought furnishings, e. g., bed and dresser. When you consider that we live very well, but not luxuriously, and that only one is earning and five are consuming, you will see that we have reason to be satisfied; at least we think so, and we thank our Creator that He is giving us our daily bread so abundantly. May He continue to bless us further and keep us healthy in soul and body.

It is really a pleasure to hear that Ed. Oellermann is getting along all right; give him our best regards and tell him that we are feeling fine. How is it that Dolerau burnt out and then Friedensthal—were they set on fire? Greetings to von Bergs in R. and tell them that we were very much pleased that they remembered us.

Dear Julchen:

Our sweet Mathildchen, dear Carlchen, and friendly Fritzchen—that's the way you call the youngsters—thank you very much for your lovely letter, and they regret very much that you did not pack some cookies or toys with the letter. Tilla says there is too much water between us and everything would be spoiled, but the boys will not accept this excuse, particularly Fritzchen, who finds a special pleasure in eating something delicate. We call him "schoolmaster" for eating and drinking are his inclination and playing his delight; he is mother's darling because he is again her baby. The little ones are snoring to beat the band, and my dear Christelchen is accompanying them, and I too will go to bed. Sleep well, I think I shall finish this letter tomorrow.

A short time ago I witnessed the execution of two murderers and I shall tell you about it tomorrow, as you may dream about it to-night. Good night.

In this country the punishment for murder is hanging. These two fellows—one was a native born American and the other was born in England—committed numerous murders and robberies. Last summer they murdered an old man in this city at 11 o'clock in the morning, a money changer, with the intention of robbing him. They were caught in the act and sentenced to death in the next court session; these are open to the public, same as in Düsseldorf. Both pleaded guilty and they were sentenced to death. They were given four weeks time for penitence, as is the custom in this state, and led to the place of execution and hanged together.

On the way from jail one was smoking a cigar, and the other

one was talking about the weather to the soldiers who were his escorts. There were two carts with a coffin on each and the delinquents had to sit on their own coffins. They went immediately on an elevated platform which held the gallows, and two ministers, the judge, and the executioner followed. The ministers held a short sermon and said a prayer, the judge read the sentence aloud, and one of the murderers addressed the crowd and cautioned them that it does not pay to commit a crime. The executioner placed the noose around their necks and covered their heads and faces with white caps. The ministers and the judge held a little conversation between themselves and passed a snuff-box. The executioner took a good sized chew of tobacco and waited for the judge's order. When the signal was given he opened a trap-door quickly and both criminals fell through it, and they hung side by side. One of them jerked once more with one leg. After about fifteen minutes both were taken to the Medical School for Anatomy. On the 17th of this month a German fellow will be hanged for killing his sweetheart; they were engaged, but she did not want to marry him, and they say that she was a respectable girl.

Several weeks ago a big building burnt down right in our neighborhood. The fire department is wonderfully equipped and it is seldom that more than one building burns down. American firemen would be very much surprised if they could see our fire department at home; it would be a good thing for them to send a few men over here to study American methods. In general, Germans could learn a lot more from Americans than the latter could learn from the Germans. The small wheelbarrows and trucks which are used in warehouses are far superior to those used in Germany, and I am convinced that anybody who would manufacture these in Germany could accumulate a fortune. Besides these, Americans have numerous other things more suitable and more simply arranged than over there. If I ever take a trip to Germany, I shall take many such things along to sell them as samples to manufacturers.

The children are much aroused, for Christy just told them the story of Joseph and his brothers. They are about to go to bed. The little ones are so sweet and lovely; may our good Lord keep them so and may He abide with us. Last Sunday we were reading Luther's biography, which enlightened us and gave us pleasure. Schools and churches were better in Cincinnati, and we have lost much in this respect. Pastor Raehig in Cincinnati was an excellent pastor and also a dear friend of our family. We shall have to spend more time with our books now. In spite of the fact that Louisville is about one-

half of the size of Cincinnati, there is much more going on in this city. Conditions are coarser and rougher, and they say that fifteen hundred shameful women are in this city; you hardly heard of such things in Cincinnati. Many of these people pass our house every day. Since Kentucky is a slaveholding state there are many Negroes and mulattoes living here, and many of them are not of much account.

A short time ago several Indians passed through this city; they are called "redskins" in this country. They were on their way to Washington, which is the residence of the President of the United States, as they sold their land to the United States Government. They looked horrible—their skin is copper colored and the face is painted blue, green, and yellow; they were almost naked and wore only the skins of wild animals. They carry bows and arrows and handle them with surprising skill. On their heads they had the most beautiful feathers I ever saw. Their ears were pierced several times and in each hole they wore ear-rings, amber pearls, ribbons, etc. They sang and made a noise like the barking of dogs. They have their own language.

Farewell now; our good Lord be with you; hearty greetings to all of you from the Americans,

Your
GUSTAVUS.

LOUISVILLE, November 9, 1837.

How is Conrad Roentgen? I wish he were here. How is Julius Wuesthoff? Is rector Mueller still living? How are Carl and Arnold Moll? What is dear Ambrosius doing? Is the pretty boy still single? How is Mrs. Kotter née Hager? How are the daughters of Strohm's? Give our greetings to all our friends and relatives who remember us in kindness, and now once more: Farewell, farewell, farewell! Many more kisses and embraces from our darling children, who are extra nice now, since Christmas is near. Farewell, and write soon!

I notice with fright that I am again on the last page and that I shall have to finish, but I think I gave you something to do this time, for it will take you about an hour to read this letter. It is most gratifying, thanks to our Lord, that I can give you nothing but good news. May our good Lord keep us healthy and may He always be near us with His grace and fatherly love. We will ask you again to give heartiest greetings to our dear aunt and our cousins, and we wish you would write soon again, and write the address the same as mentioned in my last letter, i. e., Mr. G. W., Louisville, Ky.,

Nord Amerika, prepaid Bremen. Please do not use so many small pages, but use sheets like the ones I use, and write small and as close together as possible, so that you can write much, and remember twelve pages are better than six, as we are not easily satisfied in this respect.

November 30.

This letter was ready and sealed for quite some time, but I had no opportunity to send it, as our friend, who was to take it to New Orleans, is sick. I opened it again as I wish to write more.

A short time ago Fritz received a letter from August and his wife in which they tried very hard to restore the harmony in our family. Gretchen writes among other things that she can speak of the Wulfing family only in terms of the highest respect, and if the Winters say something different it is nothing but slander. August stated he would write me a separate letter and give me complete information about everything, etc. They wrote very cordially, and I am completely reconciled to them. I shall wait for his promised letter before I acknowledge receipt of the correspondence. We shall be glad when these detestable frictions between Löhne and ourselves are a matter of the past. I can pass up father's follies, as the proverb says: "Age is not proof against folly!"

What else can I write about? Mainly, that my dear Christelchen is feeling ill and that she is vomitting every morning. We do not doubt that we will have a little baby boy about July 8 next year. We are confident that it will be a boy this time, for Christy has a strong desire to eat something delicate. She roasted a duck for herself this morning and she is very fond of cake.

Mathildchen asked me to write grandma not to send a baby to her mother, as she would like it much better if grandma would send the baby to her, since mother would not be sick in bed in that case. She added that she can well take a baby in her lap and can sing her to sleep without lying in bed.

November 30.

We hear and see nothing from Carl and the Paucks. It is possible that Lindenheim may take a trip to Germany next spring. If this should come to pass, we shall send you a good sized package of letters, and you too will have a splendid opportunity to send us many letters through him. We continue to feel fine; I have not closed my books

for this month yet, but I think that I shall have a net profit of about sixty to seventy dollars. You wrote us that Carl Wolterhoff passed away; what became of Peter Hammacher? Do you think that he would like to come to America? As I am situated now, I should like very much to have a reliable and competent partner. I am financially strong enough to enlarge my business, but I cannot do it till I find a competent partner. If I cannot find a partner, I shall wait until the boys are about twelve years old.

You cannot imagine how much American methods differ from the German way of transacting business. I should be pleased if you would talk to Peter H. about this; possibly Burcher could see him for you. If young Ackermann knew what opportunities he might have in America, I think he would not hesitate to come, and I feel certain that after about a year or so he would be grateful to our Lord that He showed him the way to this country. A dyer & cleaner would be very successful too.

January 3, 1838.

This letter has not gone yet; but several of my friends will leave for New York in about two weeks, and the first one who leaves shall take it along. Carlchen told me just now that he would like to go to Lennep and see his dear grandma and Aunt Julia before they go to heaven as Aunt Christy did. Mathildchen and Carlchen are going to school now and they have a very good German teacher. Later on, when they can read and write German, we shall send them to the English school; the tuition is very cheap, it costs only a dollar per month for both children. With reference to Christy's condition, I made my statement too positive in regard to the time; I shall write more about it later on. She still has to vomit every morning.

Last November my sales amounted to \$256.93 $\frac{3}{4}$ and my gross profit was \$114.00, minus expenses of \$37.37 $\frac{1}{2}$, which leaves a net profit of \$76.62 $\frac{1}{2}$. In December the sales were \$158.00, and the gross profit \$75.00, minus expenses of \$38.68 $\frac{3}{4}$, which leaves a net profit of \$36.31 $\frac{1}{4}$. Therefore I gained in November and December \$112.93 $\frac{3}{4}$. We thank our Lord that we are getting along so nicely. If times were better, I would enlarge my business, but these hard times prevent me from doing it; however, I am waiting for a good opportunity. I see no reason why I should not earn \$1000.00 per annum instead of the \$280.00 which I made in eight months, but I need a reliable partner to accomplish this. I owe nothing, have a good stock on hand, and \$100.00 in my desk besides.

Won't you talk to Burcher, so that he may see Peter Hammacher about this? January and February will be slow, but March, April, May, and June are the best months of the year as a rule. If our good Lord continues to be kind to us, we shall have no cause for complaint.

You cannot handle German cloth in this country, but certain kinds of ironware will sell. We have heard nothing more from Löhne. Christy noticed a young lady last week who appeared familiar to her. She made inquiries and found out that the lady was the step-sister of our brother-in-law Winter in Bünde and that they had met each other in Germany. She appears to be a very nice woman and has been living in Louisville about two weeks; her husband is a blacksmith. We were surprised that the Winters did not write us about this, since his sister left Germany in April of last year.

When you write again, please give us as much news as you possibly can. What is Eduard Jahn doing? How are Julius and Friedrich Wuesthoff, and how are Dina's children? The boys must be grown-up by this time. It would be better for them if they were in America. If they are good boys and willing to come, I will advance the traveling expenses for both, or at least for one of them. You do not know how much I want a reliable assistant. As I told you before, I need a trustworthy partner in order to enlarge my business, or, at least an upright assistant. Please tell this to our cousin Ludwig Sp. and give him our best regards. Many people come from the vicinity of O., and he may know somebody whom he can recommend as partner or assistant.

I can get no suitable person among the Germans in this city; most of them are country people and too ignorant. I shall not be able to do better than I did in the past eight months as long as I am by myself; but I should like to do better, and for that reason I desire to find a partner. I am convinced that thousands and thousands of people live in Germany who could do better if they were in this country. In spite of this conviction, I would never induce anybody to emigrate, but if someone wishes to emigrate, I would always advise him to do so; let everyone do as he chooses.

If everybody thought as I do, and if everybody abhorred soldiery and bureaucracy as I always did, only rich and old people would stay at home. When they speak about Germany in this country, it is always with compassion for the people who are oppressed by those who call themselves: *Wir, von Gottes Gnaden*—"We, by the grace of God." You cannot express in a few words how fortunate America is in this respect.

The President of the United States holds the highest honor on

the entire globe, he is the first citizen of this country, and North America is bigger than all Europe. In Europe you will find numerous emperors, kings, sovereigns, dukes, etc., but our President walks across the street the same as I do—no Royal Highness or Majesty would ever do that. They do not even call him “Mister,” since the word mister is never used in connection with a title in the English language. When talking to the President you say simply: “How are you, President?” and he answers: “Thank you, how are you?”

A Prussian passport—which is difficult to get—is worded: We, by the Grace of God, etc.—Know all Men by these presents that so-and-so intends to travel to such-and-such place, whereby he will have to pass through the following municipalities, cities, towns. An American passport simply reads: Our fellow-citizen, Mr. so-and-so, will travel in Europe via . . . ; We request that all our Consuls give him all the assistance he may ask for. In the name of the independence of the United States of North America.

Germany is the land of fruitless knowledge, and I regret that I did not emigrate twenty years ago; however, my children will have the benefit. You may think it is exaggerated, and you may hardly believe it, but I can make the bold statement that an industrious slave is much better off in this country than a German peasant. I shall not resent it if you do not believe me, for it is unbelievable to the German way of thinking; I did not believe it myself when I was in Germany.

The Declaration of Independence of the United States from England adopted as its first law the recognition of God as our Lord, and to sacrifice home and blood only for the independence of our country, and not for a king! And I say again it is unfair to prevent anyone from emigrating, and I assure you that we are glad to be in this country, even if our conversations refer to Germany almost every day.

Prussia and the United Free States of North America are the two extremes of our new civilization. Both countries display an energy which was unknown to the world heretofore. Our almighty God attains his aims through both. We thank our Creator every day that he led us here and that he gave us the opportunity to learn through our own experience what it means to be a free citizen in a free country. Oh, if only all those who are not satisfied over there would have the courage to seek a home in a country which appreciates its citizens! Most of them would be well pleased after they had passed through the first two years.

If Germany had freedom of the press, I would gladly sit down and write late into the night, to do my share to open the eyes of the poor

German people. Our good German fellow-countrymen are the lamp-lighters on the world stage, they are neither actors nor spectators—they are lighting the lamps—and smell the oil.

I feel like writing all night through, but I am afraid that the subject may not interest you as much as it does me; I was interested in all this for a long time, as your beloved Gustavus sees the world from a different angle than you do. Therefore, I force myself to break off, and I will fill this page with something more important, since it is my last sheet.

All right then—in Germany you would begin with the weather. Today is January 4, 1838; it so warm that we keep doors and windows open and are perspiring nevertheless. However, it is very cold in Pittsburgh, and the canal to Philadelphia is completely frozen up, and there is heavy snow in Cincinnati. We have had no snow this winter. Father sent fifty *Taler* in gold to Carl and he was extremely happy about it. I don't know if I mentioned this before; we had on our farm a tree with thorns from two to three inches long and a quarter-inch thick, and they say that the crown of our Lord Jesus was made out of a similar tree.

We frequently talk about our experience on the farm, and we are happy and thank our good Lord that he led us back to the city life again. May we always remember His great love and keep in mind to lead a life at all times which is pleasing to Him; and may He enlighten us to bring up our children—who are in reality His children—in the true spirit of Christianity. May He be near us, and may He punish us when we do wrong.

Our children mean everything to us; they are learning well and they are well behaved. We remark frequently that they would cheer you up, each in his individual manner, if we were living close together. Mathilde with her gentleness, Carlchen with his brilliant mind and frolicsome liveliness, and Fritzchen with his silent contentedness when he gets something good to eat. I was out this evening and came home late and the children were in bed already. They were quiet but they did not want to sleep unless they gave a good-night kiss to their father; Fritzchen however was sound asleep, as slumber got the better of him. He had a very good reason for being extra tired, for mother had had pancakes.

We spent a very happy and pleasant Christmas. *Christkindchen* had for me a silk neckerchief, a pair of socks, and a pair of gloves; for Christy a dress, or rather material to make a dress; for Mathilde a doll, a small dresser, a little trunk, a black-board, and similar things; for Carlchen a gun and a flute, etc.; and for Fritzchen also

a gun and a flute and other toys; besides, a tree, cakes, pastry, apples, nuts, eggs with gold, lambs, and so on. It was so much that Carlchen said: "Santa Claus must be richer this year than he was last year, because he could bring so much." Santa Claus also left a cap for each boy and a dress for Mathildchen along with Fritz.

January 5, 1838.

Here I am writing again. Last night when I was about to go to bed I heard the fire department. I investigated and found three houses on fire. No human beings perished, but six horses burnt to death. We treat the school teacher the same way as you did when I was a schoolboy. We ask him to be our guest from time to time, and we find that it is really a pleasure to associate with him. He is very kind to our children, gives them fine pictures with scenes from the Bible, and is well pleased. He promised us that they will be able to write to their grandmother by next Christmas. The children learned a new song today, but could not tell me about it, since they forgot how it started; Carlchen thought I would know the song, since *Vater in den Augen sehen* was part of it.

I should like to send you a few German-language newspapers, as I know that they will interest you; if Fritz ever goes to Germany, I will give him some to take to you. We have heard nothing from Carl and the Paucks lately and we have had no letters from Germany. I should write to B. in R.; however, I do not know what to write him, since I do not intend to order goods. This letter would be in your hands by this time if I had not had to wait so long for an opportunity to send it. It shall not happen again; next time when I have a letter ready to go, I will mail it without trying to save the postage fee of a dollar. We hope to get a letter from you before we write our next one.

I am trying to think of something I could write about, but I seem to find nothing. Last night I was in better humor and I could have filled six pages, and now, I can think of nothing. Since I do not intend to waste this space, I will write about a murder, which happened last night.

When we made our trip from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati two years ago, we traveled on a steamboat named "Philadelphia," and the name of the captain was Dix. He was an exceptionally rough fellow and—which is against all American customs—he ridiculed my poor English and overcharged me ten dollars. This captain lost his job soon afterwards, I don't know for what reason. Since he never saved

anything, as most Americans do, he was soon down and out, and was forced to send his family to a farm. He went to Louisville and became a gambler. He ate his meals in one of the best places and made the acquaintance of a well-to-do money changer. Last Friday when the money changer was leaving, the ex-captain got up at the same time, started a conversation, and induced him to take a drink. As he had apparently nothing else to do, he walked with the money changer to the office and began to read a paper; while the changer started with his work. After the clerk went to lunch, the ex-captain killed the unsuspecting changer instantly with a hammer. He went through his pockets, but could not find the key to the money box. Since he could not locate the key in any other place, he felt certain that the clerk must have the key with him. He locked the door, placed the body out of sight, and waited for the clerk to return. A little later the clerk knocked at the door, the ex-captain opened, locked it behind him and tried to kill the clerk with the same hammer, but missed the head and hit him on the arm. The clerk defended himself with a chair and called for help. But help arrived too late; the clerk, being hit on the head, jumped through the open door and collapsed on the street. Helping neighbors locked the murderer in the office to prevent his escape, and when the fellow realized this he shot himself through the head.

All three had families—the changer, the clerk, and the ex-captain. There is hope that the clerk may recover. This murder story is horrible, but it proves clearly how the devil will be the master over men when they do not believe in God. About a year ago they suspected the captain of having stolen the cash box of a steamboat. God have mercy on his soul!

I will finish now. Please use the address as given you before. We are feeling fine except my dear Christelchen, who has toothache. We hope to hear from you soon again. Many more hearty greetings to all of you, Aunt Peter, and all friends, relatives, neighbors, and so on from Christelchen and me, and may our good Lord protect us.

Your loving Son and Brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Our Fritzchen speaks English rather than German, and this is caused by playing with the neighbor children all the time; however, we intend to send him to the German school just the same. Mathilde and Carlchen speak both languages equally well and like them both, and when they play together, they use German now and English the next time. Christy understands English fairly well and when

she has something to say, she simply does the best she can. Mathilde is her interpreter and she is quite proud of it.

Farewell now, and continue to love us! Please tell me if my letters arrive properly sealed and if you can recognize my seal.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, January 5, 1838.

A New York newspaper stated that there was a revolution in Cologne on December 1 and that the government placed cannon in the streets. The bishop was arrested because he refused to sanction mixed marriages except under the condition that the children became Catholics, and he ordered all Catholics to support this and if necessary to use force. Please give us more details about this.

Today, on January 31, 1838, the letter will be dispatched finally, and we hope that you will get it before Easter. We expect to get some news from you almost any day now.

Last Sunday the teacher paid us a visit and he told us that our children were the best behaved in the school. Carlchen is somewhat restless and his eyes are almost anywhere except on the blackboard. The children sing to us every evening and they asked me to send greetings to their grandmother and to Aunt Julia. Fritzchen is sleeping already. Yesterday I bought a fine kitchen cabinet and Christy told me that she had almost everything she wished to have; but I say her greatest virtue is her contentedness.

Yesterday we heard from a friend that Carl is having a hard struggle and that he hardly earns enough for his support. We feel sorry for him, but since he is not doing his share, nobody can help him.

Once more, hearty greetings and many kisses from your beloved ones in Louisville.

We have moved from our home which I described to you (on page 68), and we live now in the block between Fourth and Fifth Sts., and Water and Main Sts. I have indicated our new location with an X. The view is just as beautiful, but in place of having two rooms, we have five large rooms now, and one of them we rented to Winter's sister. They are respectable people, but have had hard luck and they are very poor. For the present we allow them to stay with us free of charge, as the husband can find no work. We are getting along fine and are very much pleased that we can send this letter off.

A few days ago Fritz had a letter from his father wherein he stated that he was glad that he was in the wrong, as it was better for us this way than if his accusations had been well founded. That is

one way of settling a question, if you do not wish to derogate from your dignity; you meet the situation as well as you know how.¹

Memorandum on page five of original letter:

Your letter of August 18 arrived here October 17, which was fairly quick.

Cancellation stamp reads:

New York, Feb. 28.

*Dearly beloved Mother, and dearly beloved Julchen:*²

After waiting a long time we finally received your kind letters. You can well imagine how much pleasure they gave us. Many, many thanks for them, and we are very grateful that our good Lord kept you in good health. We sincerely hope that He may grant you many more years to stay with us. May He lighten the infirmities of old age, so that you may have much pleasure with your children and grandchildren; and for you, my dear Julchen, we pray that our dear Father in heaven may strengthen your delicate body.

Gustave hoped that we might have an opportunity to send this letter to New Orleans, and I thought it best to write to you, beloved ones, the letter which I promised. Oh, if I only could transfer you over here so that I could tell you verbally everything we had to go through since we saw each other the last time. But this cannot be done; the ocean and many miles are between us. Our good Lord decreed by his divine will that we should be separated, and His laws are sacred; we can only benefit by living up to them. However, beloved ones, since I cannot do this, let us be happy that we can write each other. Gustave asked me to tell you about matters he did not write in detail. We are glad to say that all of us are feeling fine. Just now Carlchen tells me to write grandmother that he would like to have another little sister, but one who would not die soon. I am certain that Gustave has told you that already.

We were not without trials and tribulations this summer and I shall not forget this very easily. It was on July 4 when I suffered my most severe pains. Everybody was celebrating the great festival in commemoration of American liberty, and much shooting was going on just in front of our windows. Yes, my dear mother, our little Julia Dorothea was my saddest experience; but man's extremity is God's opportunity, and all misery was quickly forgotten when the child was born. Alas, my happiness was not of long duration, the baby suffered from convulsions and she passed away on Carlchen's birthday, July 7, in the lap of the midwife.

¹ This letter has no signature.

² This letter has no date line.

It was a lovely baby. I was prepared for this, and we submitted to God's will. I felt happy in the thought that our beloved sister Christiane and all our departed relatives were meeting this little angel to take her to her heavenly home, where she will share celestial joy. What a delight it will be when we shall meet again in heaven. May our good Lord assist us to be able to accomplish this! You will well understand how I felt, when I nursed the little baby a few hours before her departure, we were hopeful that she would improve, but—she died shortly afterwards. May she sleep in Jesus!

Our good Lord gave me strength, and I was well able to take care of my household duties after twelve days. We had a maid, but we discharged her, since I thought it best to use the strength which our dear Lord gave me. You have no idea how strong and healthy I am now; however, I suffer from headache or toothache every once in a while and this may be caused by a cold. The weather changes here too much; you have to wear winter dresses early in the morning and summer dresses at noontime. The longest period of rain we have experienced lasted exactly three days and it is very seldom that it rains a whole day. In the morning and at evening we often have a heavy fog, which is not at all healthful. It was extremely hot last summer, much hotter than the previous summer, and now it is frequently very cold.

I should like to tell you now how I spend the day, as Gustave wishes me to write in detail about everything. I rise at six o'clock in the morning; about four o'clock Fritzchen appears at my bed and calls: "Mother, in your bed, mother, your Fritzchen is here, wants to come in your bed!"—and I take the little fellow in my arms. At six I rise and start a fire with shavings and cord-wood, which I had prepared the evening before. We drink coffee at half-past six and eat meat and wheat bread with butter; rye bread is not known here, and we miss our pumpernickel very much. We eat meat every morning, Gustave likes it that way, and I feel dissatisfied when I happen to run out of it. I dress the children, fix the beds, and straighten up the rooms, and this takes most of the morning. We eat our main meal in good old German style, but meat is our main dish. After the dishes are washed, I clean up again, and Tildchen helps sweeping up. When this is done I have to sew, patch, or knit, until toward evening I prepare coffee or tea, which we take together with bread, butter, meat, and fried potatoes.

Mathilde can knit very nicely, but she prefers to do house work. I do all the washing myself, I do not allow it to accumulate, but wash every week. I am busy from early in the morning till late in the

evening, and though I am somewhat tired by that time, I am healthy and happy, because I am well satisfied. Gustave gets two buckets of drinking water for me every evening and also enough water for washing, etc.; outside of that, I do the housework all by myself. As a rule I go to the market three times a week to buy eggs, butter, apples, vegetables, and meat. Bread and milk are delivered to our house, and these people announce themselves by blowing a horn, the same as your night-watchmen do. We have no garden and no animals, as we prefer to invest our money in our business. We would not gain anything, since I cannot take care of them myself. I have as much work as I can accomplish, and we do not wish to hire some one, as wages are extremely high. Potatoes are good in this country, we do not care very much for the other vegetables; however, I put up a small barrel of kraut and a crock of cucumbers. Grapes do not grow here. I have to finish now, as I cannot keep my eyes open any longer.

Mathilde and Carl have gone³ to school and Fritzchen is sound asleep; it is very quiet and I shall spend this hour of leisure in chatting with you dear people. I mentioned to you that grapes do not grow here, but we have fine apples, melons, peaches, etc.; very few pears and hardly any prunes or cherries. My dear husband gave me a big surprise by buying a fine dresser for me, which cost sixteen dollars; he bought me a fine stylish comb decorated with silver.

My, what strange customs they have in this country! A young lady who works in Fritz's store arrives in a carriage, wears silk dresses, and has a fine veil on her hat. When you take a walk, or visit somebody, you wear a silk dress even on week days; they wear straw hats in summer and in winter. The living rooms of American people are very clean, and they are always covered with a rug. Many mothers have the bad habit of letting their children run around as dirty as can be, and many who can afford to have a maid pay very little attention to household duties; they spend their time before a mirror, looking out of the windows, or they visit each other.

Gustave and I want our children brought up in the good old German style; they must learn to work. If they do not have to work later on, it is so much the better for them, but they will at least have learned to appreciate work, and they will be able to judge for themselves if things are done right or not. You are correct, my dear Julchen, in saying it is not easy to educate children. It is beyond our ability to do this alone, we have to pray and ask our good Lord to as-

³ This is apparently a continuation written the next morning.

sist and direct us and give us wisdom to accomplish the task. I teach them prayers and relate stories from the Bible, and they listen attentively, and when I have finished they always like to hear more. I remind them frequently of their dear grandmother, their good grandfather, and dear Aunt Julia, who are so good to them, and of all the other kind relatives in Germany.

I make suits for the boys—pants, vest, jacket—straw hats, and this winter a topcoat. Mathilde wears a little dress and white pantalettes, a straw hat with a blue ribbon, and I braid her hair in German style. It is a pleasure to see them all healthy and dressed up. The stockings which you gave them and the collars from Aunt Peter Wulfing were quite useful and they are almost too small by now; you have no idea how fast the children grow.

Gustave takes care of his store all day, and I shall be glad when the evenings get longer, as no customers call when it is dark. We spend the evenings together in our cozy home and chat about this and that, and frequently we talk about Germany and our beloved ones, and no day passes without thinking of you. Often in the middle of the night, when we cannot sleep, we ask ourselves: “What are they doing in Germany now?” We lead a pleasant and happy life, thanks to our Lord. There is always something to wish for, since we live in an imperfect world.

It was more convenient in Cincinnati in regard to the church. The nearest Lutheran church is two miles from our home, and we cannot go there as regularly as we should like to. I find consolation in the thought that our good Lord is not only in the temples which are built by human hands—no, He lives within ourselves, and we can be warmly devoted to Him in our own homes. I have gone to the cemetery only once, as it is very far. Please give my most heartfelt greetings to our dear Aunt Peter Wulfing and her children, and assure her that we think of them very often; also greetings to Aunt G. Wulfing and her daughters, to our relatives in Osnabrück, and to Cousin Reinholt. The letter from our Cousin Jettchen Springmann pleased us very much, and we wish to thank her for her kind words of sympathy. We feel very sorry for the aged Roentgens that their only daughter, Louise, passed away, as she was their only support. Our good Lord in His great wisdom must have had a good reason for allowing this to happen.

Please give our regards to the Roentgens and Albermanns and others who remember us in kindness.

Now, my beloved mother and dear Julchen, I shall have to finish, but I wish to mention the fact that we read all your kind letters again

and again, as they are very instructive and interesting; especially your description of the last days and the departure of our late sister Christiane; we cannot read this without deep emotion. Oh, how inexpressibly happy she must be with our Redeemer! Hearty farewell now; may our dear Lord give you and ourselves all that is needed for our temporal and eternal happiness.

Your loving Daughter and Sister,

CHRISTIANE WULFING.

LOUISVILLE, November 7, 1837

Postscript by Mr. G. W. on page four of original letter:

November 8.

My beloved Christelchen wrote in such detail that I hardly know what else I can add; however, I want to make use of this little space.

Last Sunday a Mr. Teschenmacher, of Elberfeld, who owned a paper mill near Münster, called on us. He mentioned that many Germans returned from New York to Germany. Many came from the vicinity of Paderborn, and a former inn-keeper, C. H. Hagen, was one of them. H. brought much wine over to this country, but could not sell it in New York or Philadelphia. Since H. was drunk practically all the time, he was cheated out of everything. If H. really returns to Paderborn, there is no doubt in my mind that he will run down America as much as possible, but he should blame himself, as he is the real cause of his hard luck. I thought best to call your attention to this so that you may not feel that it is really bad in America.

On the contrary, I take this occasion to assure you once more that living conditions are better in this country than in Germany. Everybody can make a good living over here if he is industrious and leads a respectable life; provided, however, that he does not suffer from sickness. There are numerous people in Europe who could live much more comfortably over here, the same as we do. Most of them would never think of returning after they had spent one or two years in this country.

As I mentioned before, I would return to Germany only if I could live on my interest, and I leave the question open if this would be better for my children. However, I should not mind taking a business or pleasure trip to Germany; and believe me, I would cause a great sensation in Lennep, since I can safely say that I have experienced more in the past two years than they experience in a half-century with their slow and easy-going ways. Good night.

Insertion on page three of original letter:

The sister of our brother-in-law Winter is living with us now; we did not know her before, but made her acquaintance accidentally. Her husband is a blacksmith, and they seem to be nice people; however, they have had bad luck so far. We were somewhat surprised that Winter did not write us about this, as we did not know that they had a sister in America. We moved a few days ago and occupy the entire upper floor of the house now. We have a comfortable home and Christiane likes the change very much.

Greetings to Burcher and his wife, to the Roentgens and all friends and relatives. Please tell Burcher what I wrote about H., as I feel sure that he knows him.

Dearly beloved Mother and dear Sister:

Today is June 10, 1838, and I have not had a letter from you for a long time. I do not know if you received my letters of July 23 and August 21 of last year and of January 31 of this year. We hope to hear from you almost any day. Fritz had a letter from Löhne wherein they stated that everything was all right in Lennep, as far as they knew. I have not written to Löhne yet, for I did not get an answer to my letter; but Fritz wrote for me and mentioned that I was waiting for the letter August had promised us to write. It depends on their actions now whether or not our correspondence continues, and whatever they decide to do will be all right with us. I am afraid that your letter failed to reach us, as I can hardly believe that you would not write for such a long time.

Fritz has made up his mind to leave for Europe in the spring of 1839, and he intends to call on you in Lennep and to give you a verbal report about everything. I am much pleased about this. No matter how much I write, I could only inform you about the main points, unless I should write a book, and I have neither the time nor the skill to do this. Thanks to our Lord, we are getting along fine, enjoy good health, and are well satisfied with our destiny. My dear Christelchen sits opposite me and reads your old letters. She is expecting her baby in about four weeks, and we hope it will be a healthy boy; she feels finer this time than ever before. She enjoys a good appetite, and a hard-working laborer could hardly eat more than she ate today. We had codfish, potatoes with butter and parsley. She leads a pleasant life, enjoys taking care of her housework, and lets her husband do all the worrying. Our children continue to give

us real pleasure. We find our greatest happiness in them, and through them our good Lord repays us a thousand fold for many difficulties and privations. They are glowing and blooming like roses in Paradise, and they are exuberant with health, particularly the little one.

Mathilde and Carl go to school, where they learn German in the forenoon and English in the afternoon. The teacher is well pleased and he allows Fritzchen to come along from time to time. They insisted that I write grandma. Tildchen wanted a little sister, but the boys wanted a little brother, but now, M. & C. are well pleased if they get either a little sister or a brother, but Fritzchen still insists upon getting a little brother, who must belong to him alone. He is practicing the song:

Stille, stille, immer still,
Weil mein Bruderchen schlafen will.

If it is a boy, we shall name him Wilhelm, and if a girl, we shall name her Marie; in either case we ask Aunt Peter and Julia to be god-mother. We have hired a maid for two dollars and are pleased with her.

If I recollect correctly, I mentioned in my last letter that we have a better home now; we have two living rooms, a bedroom, a kitchen, and an attic, besides a cellar and a yard, etc.; and we occupy the second floor of the house all by ourselves. Winter's sister and husband lived with us during February, but we separated, as he was a drinking man. We have heard nothing of them since except that they are still in Louisville. He worked in a blacksmith shop, and I do not know how they are getting along.

Carl and Pauck visited us last month. They were here together and intended to try their luck in Louisville but they convinced themselves quickly that they were better off in Cincinnati, since conditions are more favorable for Germans in that city. Pauck is too old to give up his foolish German notions; he lives in castles in the air rather than in a humble home on solid ground, and Carl is too stupid to understand American conditions. Both depend on the German element in Cincinnati and both rail against Louisville, and do not realize where the fault actually lies. I am glad to say that they are getting along better than formerly; both earn more and they at least make a living, but both are far from making headway. Carl is very depressed, but we helped him financially and otherwise, and we sincerely hope that he may benefit by it.

You will see from my statement what progress I have made since

we have been in Louisville. In the first year, i. e. from May 1, 1837 to the end of April, 1838, I sold goods amounting to \$2303.68¾. The gross-earnings were \$961.56¼, and the expenses \$595.62½. The gain was \$405.88 and the loss amounted to \$38.78¼. Deduct the loss from the gain and you will arrive at a net gain of \$367.10. Deduct further for bad money and spoilt goods \$27.10 and you will find that I had a net earning of \$340.00.

The first month of the second year, as you will see, was a good month with a gross profit of \$140.68¾ and a net profit of \$101.50. Since my net earnings for the year amounted to \$340.00 or 500 *Taler*, I made more money than Ambrosius wanted to pay; besides I am independent and free, and I live better than we could afford to live in Lennep. All furnishings, e. g., dresser, beds, etc., are included in the expenses, which means extra earnings. Times are bad at present, but the working class feels this more than the merchants, and I could earn three to four times more if I had a reliable partner.

MONTH	SALES	GROSS PROFITS	EXPENSES	GAIN	LOSS
1837					
May	\$333.48¾	\$124.12½	\$40.21½	\$83.91	
June	259.58¾	107.25	65.82	43.43	
July	134.57½	58.36	51.18¾	6.29	
Aug.	96.84¾	34.53¾	55.26½		\$20.72¼
Sep.	198.06¼	87.25	52.43¾	34.81¼	
Oct.	271.06¼	101.43¾	75.56¼	25.87½	
Nov.	256.93¾	114.00	37.37½	76.62½	
Dec.	158.00	75.00	38.68¾	36.31¼	
1838					
Jan.	116.31¼	50.06¼	44.37½	5.68¾	
Feb.	17.56¼	7.50	25.56¼		18.06¼
Mar.	198.87½	81.43¾	61.81¼	19.62½	
Apr.	262.37½	120.62½	47.31¼	73.31¼	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2303.68¾	961.56¼	595.62½	405.88	38.78¼
May	322.25	140.68¾	39.18¾	101.50	
June	294.06¼	138.62½	59.25	79.37½	

Fritz and Lindenheim earned in one year \$5000.00; therefore I will ask you again to talk to Peter Hammacher in regard to this. The reason for having such small sales in August was the extreme heat, as people do not go out much when it is so hot; and in February the Ohio River was frozen over, and this stops all business. We bought dresser, stove, beds, chairs, tables, kitchen cabinet, wardrobe, etc.; and this accounts for the high expenses in some months. As I do not have such expenses this year, I hope to do better this year with the aid of our Lord. Besides the furnishings mentioned before,

I have a stock on hand of \$500.00 and \$200.00 in cash; this is \$700.00, or 1000 *Taler* Prussian currency. I owe nothing with the sole exception of Aunt Gottfried. We are healthy, live in a nice home, eat and drink well, and sleep without worries.

Our children are our greatest pleasure, and we thank our dear Lord that He is so kind to us; I am convinced that you too are glad with us. In regard to a partner, I feel that our dear Lord will send one if He wants me to have a partner, and if not, we shall have to manage to get along without one. My dear Christelchen is just as satisfied as I am, and we thank our good Lord every day that we live in this great country. We do not associate with anybody except Lindenheim, Fritz, and the teacher, as we prefer to live a retired life. If there were no ocean between us, I would ask you to come to us, but there are insurmountable obstacles.

Please write us as much as you can—everything that happens at home is of interest to us. When the boys are grown up, and when they can take care of my business, and when I have enough money to buy a good supply, and when we are healthy, and when it is God's will—and so on, I hope to be able to take a trip to Europe and to see all of you once more. I could spend all the winter evenings telling you about America, and relating our trip would take at least half of the time. How are our dear relatives in Osnabrück, Barmen, Dohr, etc.? Give our regards to them, especially to Aunt Peter and her children, and tell them as much about my letters as you like, as I am confident that they take a warm interest in our welfare. How is our Cousin Friedrich Springmann? Please write me as much as possible. How are Ambros and Wilhelm, Roentgen's Burcher, Ben Frowein, Oellermann, Wirth, Mathis? How is Burcher's business and Hilger's? Please greet all from us and tell them that if anyone should feel like coming to this country, he should not hesitate to call on us.

On March 19 we had an exciting evening. The day before, Sunday, we were visiting Teschenmacher with our children, who lived at that time three miles from here. Monday, the 19th, just before sunset we missed Fritzchen and we began looking for him, in the house, at the neighbors', and anywhere we could think of, but it was in vain. As we live close to the river, and since horses and wagons are passing our house all the time, and since enough bad people live here who do not hesitate one minute to kidnap a small child, you can well picture our anxiety; it was nine o'clock and pitch-dark, and we had no trace of him. At about half-past nine we hired a man on horseback to call him out all over the city, but we had no success;

we notified the newspaper to announce the loss in the morning edition; it was eleven o'clock and still no trace of him. At last someone told the town crier that he saw a little boy who answered the description in the home of an English teacher about two and a half miles from the city, who could not understand him since the child spoke German. The crier rode to the teacher's home, but the teacher knew nothing about the boy; however, he directed him to the house of another teacher, about a half-mile further out, and sure enough, he found Fritzchen sitting at a table and crying that he wanted to go home to his father and mother.

He took the little boy on his horse and returned to us, and we had our child back by half-past eleven o'clock. Christiane was crying all evening, but I could not; but when I had Fritzchen back on my lap, the tears came into my eyes, and I could find no words. We went down on our knees and thanked our Creator for His extreme kindness. I cannot express in writing how we felt that night, and even now the vivid recollection fills my eyes with tears; it would have been terrible to lose our child in such a manner. Fritzchen wanted to go to Teschenmacher and he was on the right road. However, when it became dark, he started to cry and the teacher, who happened to pass, took him to his home. He could not return the boy to his parents, as he was unable to understand him. I know you will be startled when you read about this. Thanks to our Lord we got our child back, and it was a blessing that He returned him to us in the same night. We trust that the excitement was not injurious to Christy.

June 18, 1838.

Your kind letter of April 27 arrived yesterday. Many thanks. Who in the world is this Mr. Becker of whom you write? Is he a friend or is he a complete stranger? I am inclined to believe that he is a stranger and I am full of expectations. If I had had an idea that you would get such a fine opportunity to send something to us, I would never have allowed you to deprive yourself to such an extent and to spend so much money. I would have asked you to send me some family pieces, e. g., the twin brothers Carl and Peter, or pictures of Julchen, Christy, etc. I hope that you gave these to Mr. Becker and also a small jar of rose salve. We are happy that you sent us some camomile and we thank you very much for this. It is possible that this letter will not go forward before Mr. Becker arrives here.

Your arrangement with Aunt Gottfried meets with my approval, and I will give you a statement to show you how much I owe her. It does not concern father at all what settlement I make with Auntie direct. I have already mentioned to you that I am still waiting for the letter which August promised me. Father must have listened to reason to a certain extent, or he would not have paid the sixty *Taler* to Auntie through Mr. Speyer. I should appreciate it if you would tell me what settlement you intend to make in regard to Lotte Bonkowsky; possibly Arnold Moll can give you advice in this matter. It is well that you did not send Christy's letter to Löhne; they have their own ideas and they would never understand that you can be just as happy in a small home as in a palace. Fritz will explain to them that Christy is just as well satisfied as I am, and if they do not believe this, they can think whatever they please about the matter.

I have the same business as in Cincinnati, but on a larger scale; outside of jewelry I handle other things which offer an opportunity to make some money, and which I can pick up at a bargain price. Business is done in a different way than in the good old German style, and it is hard to describe it so that you understand exactly what I mean. Do not get frightened when I tell you that I make 2000 per cent sometimes. Last week I sold something and I made 2400 per cent on this particular sale. Yesterday afternoon, while reading your letter, I sold a telescope for seven dollars and a half which I had bought fifteen minutes earlier for one dollar. The man who sold it to me was still in the store; he witnessed the transaction and did not even get angry. If someone comes to me and offers me something for a dollar which I value at five dollars, it would be stupid if I told him: "You want only a dollar, but I am willing to give you two dollars"—or even more. Oh, no, I give him exactly what he has asked for, and he is satisfied of course. Now comes another man who thinks the same thing is worth seven dollars and a half. He offers me that amount, and it does not worry him if I paid ten dollars or only one dollar for it. He simply tells me that he wants that telescope for seven dollars and a half and I accept his offer, but I add that I do not make much by selling it so cheap. You state that you are well pleased with the report of my finances, but I hope you will like my balance sheet still better, which I gave you at the beginning of this letter; at any rate I like it better. In Germany your sales must exceed \$2303.00 if you want to make \$961.00.

If Wm. Springer can make no headway, I would suggest for him to come to America; they say over here, "Help yourself," and he might get a good job on the canal or with the railroad. I hope that

you gave some letters to Mr. Becker, and I sincerely trust that he did not change his mind and that he will really come to Louisville. If you had only mentioned who this Mr. Becker is, how long you have known him, and where he wants to go! but I have to be patient and he may arrive in due time. Patience is a virtue. He could have brought one of Dina's children along; they are old enough and just at the right age to learn a trade. If I had the boys here I could earn a good deal more, and, with the help of God, I could have \$10,000.00 in my own name in about three years, which I could use very well for a trip to Germany, and also to buy goods over there. No doubt the realization of such a plan would give you much joy. We talk about such plans from time to time, and it is nothing unusual in this country for a man to earn enough in a few years to be financially independent. It is true that when the children are small they cannot help much, but the most important factor for me is that we are healthy and satisfied and enjoy the blessings of our good Lord without possessing a fortune, and my dear Christelchen feels the same way. We are cheerful and happy, and trust that our good Lord may continue to bless us and to keep us in good health.

July 15, 1838.

Before all else I wish to say that Christelchen's condition is satisfactory, but the baby passed away. Last Sunday, July 8, we sent for the midwife at five o'clock in the morning, and she came immediately. Christelchen was suffering intensely, and by noon it became necessary to get a doctor, who declared that the baby must be sacrificed in order to save the mother. The baby was born at seven o'clock in the evening, but lived only about ten minutes. It was a little boy, and he was crippled. Under these conditions we thanked our Lord that He took him away so soon. There is enough affliction and misery in this world for normal people, and life is much harder for a cripple. We had hoped for a little boy, but God decreed otherwise. We submit to His will and thank Him from the bottom of our hearts that He allowed Christelchen to stay with us. While I am writing this she is walking to and fro in the room for the first time, and is happy that she feels so fine. Her slender figure amuses her and she is in good spirits.

My obligations with Aunt Gottfried Wulfig are as follows:

1832, June 1, I borrowed 500 *Taler* with interest at the rate of 4½%.

1833, June 1, I owed 500 *Taler* plus interest amounting to 22, 15.

1833, June 10, I paid 22, 15 for interest and 100 *Taler* on account.

1834, June 1, I owed 400 *Taler* plus interest amounting to 18 *Taler*.

1834, June 1, I paid 18 *Taler* for interest.

1835, June 1, I owed again 18 *Taler* for interest which I paid.

When I left I owed 400 <i>Taler</i> , or write	399, 29, 12 ¹
minus	17, 14, 9

which amount you paid for me

leaving a balance	382, 15, 3.
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1836, June 1, interest amounted to 17, 6, 4.

Father paid for me 20 <i>Taler</i> , or write	19, 29, 12
minus interest of	17, 6, 4

which reduces the capital by

and leaves an indebtedness of (See example ²)	2, 23, 18	379, 21, 7.
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1837, June 1, interest amounted to 17, 2, 6.

Father paid again 20 <i>Taler</i> , or write	19, 29, 12
minus interest of	17, 2, 6

Payment on capital

2, 27, 6

and I owed on June 1, 1837

376, 24, 1.

1838, June 1, interest amounted to 16, 28, 6.

Father paid through Mr. Speyer

on April 13, 60 <i>Taler</i> , or write	59, 29, 12
minus interest of	16, 28, 6

Payment on capital

43, 1, 6

consequently I owe Auntie now

333, 22, 7

plus the interest which is due June 1 next year.

¹ Former Prussian currency:

12 *Pfennig* equal to 1 *Groschen*.

30 *Groschen* equal to 1 *Taler*.

For 20 *Taler* write: 19 *Taler*, 29 *Groschen*, 12 *Pfennig* which is equal to 20 *Taler*.

² Example:

	382 <i>Taler</i> , 15 <i>Groschen</i> , 3 <i>Pfennig</i>
minus	2 " 23 " 8 "

Take 1 *Taler* from the *Taler* amount.

A *Taler* consists of 30 *Groschen*

or 29 *Groschen* and 12 *Pfennig*.

Add the *Groschen* and *Pfennig* to the original amount and the first line figure will read now:

	381 <i>Taler</i> , 44 <i>Groschen</i> , 15 <i>Pfennig</i>
minus	2 " 23 " 8 "

	379 <i>Taler</i> , 21 <i>Groschen</i> , 7 <i>Pfennig</i> .
minus	2 " 27 " 6 "

I sincerely trust that father will pay Auntie for my account 50 *Taler* in September as per our verbal and written agreement, for I should like to have this debt settled. I am really pleased that you wrote me about this in detail, as I know now how much I owe Auntie. Please tell her occasionally that I will do my best to pay her off as quickly as possible.

We are pleased to see from your kind letter that you are feeling fine and we trust that Julchen's condition will improve during the summer. I read in the newspaper that the Rhine was very high last February and that many villages were flooded. If you go to Altenberg, please give our regards to Holterhoffs. What is Gustav doing? Is he married? I will close for today, but I intend to continue next Sunday. How is Conrad Roentgen, is he still doing nothing? What else do you know? Do they build railroads over there? What do you know about the incident in Cologne? We hear that England intends to declare war on the United States, but we notice no war-like preparations in this country.

LOUISVILLE, July 22, 1838.

Christy is up all day now, but she takes a good rest in the afternoons. As we were fortunate to get a good maid, we intend to keep her for several weeks more, and this is better for Christy, as it will give her a wonderful opportunity to recover completely. Imhoff, from Cincinnati, will leave for Europe this week and he will post this letter in Bremen. Fritz and Lindenheim disposed of their business; they have not made up their minds as yet whether they will start something else or go to Europe. I have an opportunity to get a reliable partner, a Mr. Kayser, from Pr. Minden. If this should be realized, I may give up my present store by January and start a new business together with Mr. Kayser. He is a merchant,

Change to read:

	378	<i>Taler</i> ,	51	<i>Groschen</i> ,	7	<i>Pfennig</i>
minus	2	"	27	"	6	"

	376	<i>Taler</i> ,	24	<i>Groschen</i> ,	1	<i>Pfennig</i> .
minus	43	"	1	"	6	"

Change to read:

	376	<i>Taler</i> ,	23	<i>Groschen</i> ,	13	<i>Pfennig</i>
minus	43	"	1	"	6	"

333 *Taler*, 22 *Groschen*, 7 *Pfennig*.

appears to be reliable, and I believe he is the right man for me. This is an important step and I hope that our good Lord will enlighten me in this matter. As far as I can judge now he will be a good business partner; I hope that I can make the same statement in a year from now. May our good Lord bless and sanction this new enterprise! Kayser is a . . .³ of Mr. Backhaus, of Cincinnati, and he is not a Jew.

We, that is Christy, Mathilde, Carl, Fritzchen, the maid, and I, are suffering from whooping cough, which is not considered dangerous in this country. Mathilde had it first and all the others caught it through her. We use no medicine, but take a teaspoonful of syrup with goose-grease every two to three hours. The children do not go to school. The doctor can do nothing for it, and he tells us that this may take 18 weeks, but adults may get over it more quickly. Just now Mathildchen suffers the most and the others feel somewhat better.

We have seen nothing of Mr. Becker so far, but we are very eager to hear from him. It was extremely hot last week; we had 103 degrees Fahrenheit in the shade and many people are sick. About four to six weeks ago we had a slight earthquake, but it did not do much damage. A flowerpot fell from the window-sill and a wall settled a little. Christy is writing a few lines to Löhne. Greetings and heartfelt love to all of you, and please write soon again and use the same address. Also greetings to our relatives and friends.

May our good Lord be with us and bless all our actions and deeds, may He bestow upon us good health and contentment, and may He have mercy on us! Farewell, all of you, and please write us soon. We kiss you in our thoughts, and the children send you a most hearty farewell also. Keep us in kind memory, and extend our greetings to Aunt Peter and her family.

Your
GUSTAVUS.

When you answer this letter, please tell us more about this Mr. Becker, and if you gave him letters for us; he may have changed his mind, or his trip might be somewhat delayed. As I have a good chance to get a business partner, I think it will not be necessary to speak with Hammacher again about this. How are the von Bergs in Remscheid?

³ The missing word was torn out when the seal was removed from the original letter, leaving only the letters "er," which may be a part of *Bekannter*, "acquaintance," or *Schwager*, "brother-in-law."

When writing again use my old address; you must post your letter shortly before the mail leaves for Bremen. They crossed out "prepaid Bremen" on your last letter and changed it to "prepaid Havre de Grace," and this cost more postage fee. You must insist that they forward your letter via Bremen and not via Havre de Grace, as this is more reasonable.

LENNEP, the first April, 1838.⁴

Dear Mr. Wülfing:

I are very rejoiced, as I was hearing, that You in the last letter but one have think of me in love and You me invite so friendly to come to You, I did this very cheerfully, but I have yet necessary the school for abande now; than it was in peculiarly the desire of my dead mother; to being an instructor, but should it not come to it because hapened connexions, and it is the will of the good God, and You could me use then, so will I cheerfully went to you, for to seak my advancement there. I are now in Prima;⁵ in the same learn I, what belong the language English and France; in other objects, Geographie, Geometrie, Mathematik, Physik, etc. since short time Drawing and Musik; me brother Frederick comes like toward Easter in Secunda and shall enjoy the same information. It me rejoiced very to hearing from time to time of my aunt, that You with Your family to be well and that You writing so pleased of Your children I sent your Charles he an little drawing, a flower, and my brother likewise to Your Frederick, a flower, we put not give much.

I hope the good God gave You and the Yours farther good health and much joy.

It shall regulated be pathes of iron, who are long ago in going by You, all News-papers are full of them so shall one be lay from Elberfeld to Düsseldorf from Coln to Minden, who must should be dig up Tonnel, all Belgian is full with pathes of iron on leyd one from Cologne to Brussels, a privat man place one from Brussels to Paris of his own hand without supply and without Aktionaires, it

⁴ This letter was apparently written in English by Mr. Wüsthoff and sent by Gustavus Wulfing to his mother together with his own memorandum. It has seemed better to leave the imperfect English unedited.

⁵ Prima, *senior class*.

Secunda, *second year*.

Pathes of iron, *Eisenbahn, railroad*.

Aktionaires, *stockholders*.

Fabrik, *factory*.

Mrs., read *Messrs*.

is going also one from Paris to Coln, from Cologne to Strasbourgh, and from Strasbourgh to Paris, by this, the commerce are much gain, Cologn put the great merchantile place in Europe.

The Fabrik went on an average very good, the most merchants have steam-engine, the Mrs. Hardt have now recommenced a very well Fabrik, the Mrs. Bauendahl's are carefully building.

Now, dear Mr. Wulfing, I should You saluted from my dear uncle and aunt Vollmer, is it theire, that You think to me. Frederick let You almost saluted.

Pardoned me, when I have writen fault, I have not driving the English language very long.

Of You, Of Your Women and children many salut

from Your, You loved

GILES WÜSTHOFF.

Memorandum by Mr. G. Wulfing:

Answered September 16, 1838.

Fifty dollars first year with room and board free, if pleased possibly twice as much. Offered to send \$100.00—about 130 *Taler* and letters of recommendation for Bremen and New York.

He may get my letter by the end of November, may make up his mind and answer by the end of December; I may receive his answer by the end of February, and he may get the money by the end of May, 1839.

Dearly beloved Mother and dear Julchen:

Mr. Becker arrived finally and he brought us your kind letters and also your nice presents. This was an unexpected pleasure, and we thank you with all our hearts. It is certainly fine that we can communicate with each other in spite of the distance of six thousand miles. You see this very moment the same sun which shines in our room, and what is more important, the same Lord who protects you also protects your dear Americans. If we were living in Bielefeld now, we should have to write to each other too; the only difference is that it takes longer for a letter to reach you; however, this increases the joy of getting a letter. Our Lord be praised, I can tell you that we enjoy the best of health. The whooping cough is gone, our children are going to school again, and Christelchen has recovered completely; she manages the household with love and contentment, I am well satisfied with my destiny, and we are united in thanking our good Lord that He is holding His hands over us and all those who seek His protection. May He continue to stay with us and guide us so that we may praise Him!

I answered your letter of April 27, 1838 on July 22, and Mr. Imhoff from Cincinnati took the letter along; I hope it has reached you by the time you get this letter. In your letter of March this year—the one you gave to Mr. Becker—you asked me if I got your letter of October 21, 1837, which the Post Office changed from “Bremen” to Havre de Grace and New Orleans. My answer is: “No!” Please write my address in the future exactly as given and tell the postmaster not to change your instructions.

Your letter of August 18, 1837 was marked “Prepaid Bremen via New York.” This was crossed out with red ink and replaced with: *per coche* and *per Havre*,¹ and you had to pay thirty-four and a half *Silbergroschen*; the fee via Bremen would have been about one-half. Did you get my letter of July 23, 1837? It is possible that you answered it with your letter “per Havre and New Orleans” of October 21, 1837. As I said before, just tell the postmaster to refrain from changing your instructions, and if he changes them again, I shall write him direct and insist that this is not to be repeated. There are many mail ships from Havre to New York, but there are only trading-vessels from Havre to New Orleans. My address stays the same, unless I write you differently:

Mr. G. Wulfig
Louisville, Ky.
Nord-Amerika
via New York
via Bremen
prepaid Sea-Boundary. (*Seegrenze*)

Mr. Becker had no trouble in locating me. The first man he asked was an acquaintance, who directed him to my home. For similar occasions I shall tell you that I live at No. 10 Bullit Street. Mr. Becker arrived here August 28, and he stayed with us until the evening of the next day. He and his party had to change boats in Louisville. He told us quite a good deal about our dear Germany, and we felt very sorry that we did not know him last year when he left for Germany, as he could have told you much about us.

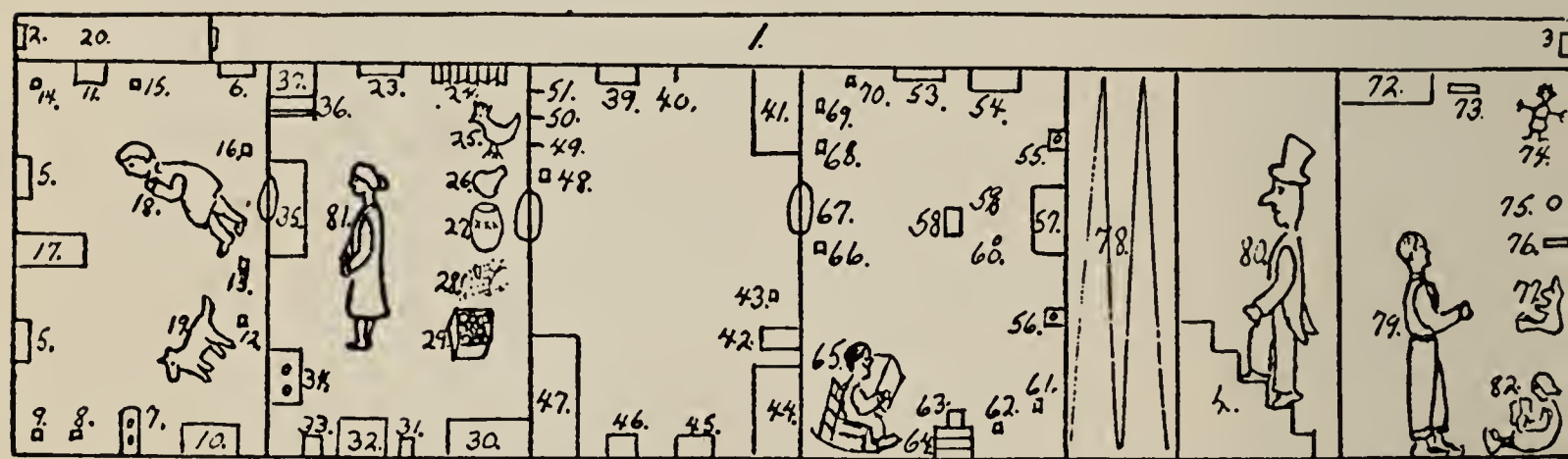
He had a very sad ocean trip—his young wife and his cousin Lungenstrass died on the sea; the voyage lasted eighty-one days, and we were only thirty-seven days on the ocean.

I shall answer your letter now; but first I wish to express once more for all of us our most heartfelt thanks for the fine presents.

¹ By coach and Le Havre.

Mathilde wept for joy as the presents which were intended for her seemed to have no end, and when the fine doll came forth, she sat on the floor and did not know what she should admire most. If we ever get a similar chance to surprise you, we shall not pass it up. By the way, Fritz and Lindenheim have changed their plans and they are not going to Germany so soon. We hear nothing from Löhne. Christy sent a letter to her father at the same time that I forwarded my letter of July 22 to you. I am somewhat curious to see if father condescends to give her an answer. Please tell me in your next letter whether or not father paid Aunt Gottfried the promised amount. I mentioned in my last letter that a Mr. Kayser might become my business partner, and this may be accomplished next spring.

Now you may rack your brains and try if you can get the meaning of my drawing. In case one thing or the other is not clear to you, it would be well for you to come over here and see for yourselves.



21.

22.

38.

52.

71.

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Long hallway | 18. Fritzchen on floor, sleeping |
| 2. Window | 19. Dog (Poppi) |
| 3. Window | 20. Attic |
| 4. Stairway | 21. Dining-room |
| 5. Window | 22. Kitchen |
| 6. Door | 23. Door |
| 7. Stove | 24. Cord-wood |
| 8. Chair | 25. Chicken |
| 9. Chair | 26. Ham |
| 10. Bed for Mr. Kayser | 27. Flour barrel |
| 11. Linen-chest | 28. Shavings |
| 12. Chair | 29. Potatoes |
| 13. Chair | 30. Kitchen cabinet |
| 14. Chair | 31. Saucepan |
| 15. Chair | 32. Kitchen range |
| 16. Chair | 33. Saucepan |
| 17. Table | 34. Case with buckets of water |

- | | |
|--|--|
| 35. Kitchen table | 61. Chair |
| 36. Step | 62. Chair |
| 37. Box | 63. Dresser |
| 38. Bedroom | 64. Glass cupboard |
| 39. Door | 65. Rocking-chair with Mr. Kayser
reading newspaper |
| 40. Clothes on nail | 66. Chair |
| 41. Bed for maid, not in use | 67. Window |
| 42. Cradle | 68. Chair |
| 43. Chair | 69. Chair |
| 44. Children's bed | 70. Chair |
| 45. Chest | 71. Part of hallway behind the stairs
where children play |
| 46. Fireplace | 72. Bench |
| 47. Bed | 73. Blackboard |
| 48. Chair | 74. Doll |
| 49. } | 75. Drum |
| 50. } Nails for clothing | 76. Whistle |
| 51. } | 77. Bear-doll |
| 52. Living room | 78. Clothesline over entire hallway
for drying clothes |
| 53. Door | 79. Carlchen |
| 54. Desk with book shelves | 80. Lindenheim calling on us |
| 55. } | 81. Mother |
| 56. } | 82. Mathilde, spelling |
| 57. Table with oil cloth where I am
writing now | (.). This sign means windows on
inner walls |
| 58. Looking glass | |
| 59. } | |
| 60. } | |

Whatever is missing you will have to add with your own imagination, e. g. the hallway is not longer than the four rooms. We share a large cellar and the yard with another tenant. The well is nearby; the street is wide and fine. We can see the Ohio River, down-stream, from windows No. 5 and 2. From windows No. 3, 55, 56 we see Bullit Street, and when looking over the houses across the street, we see the Ohio River, upstream—a very beautiful view.

I am almost inclined to believe that it would by no means be a bad plan if all of you would move to this country. When the two dear old folk have departed, you girls will be all alone in this world, and there would be nothing to hold you there any more. If the voyage were not so extremely troublesome, I would suggest giving this plan due consideration, and not to be too quick in rejecting it. But I know these are castles in the air; therefore, I should never advise you to come over to this country, even though Christy and I give America preference over Europe. We talk much and often about Germany, and we like to talk about Germany, but when it comes to comparing the two countries, we are glad to be over here, particularly since the first two years are behind us. I have to finish today. Tomorrow more. Good night.

Several days later.

Since yesterday I have been a patient, as I caught a severe cold and I have a swollen cheek, but I am somewhat better today and feel like writing, for the pain has eased up. I thank the Lord that you, my dear mother, feel better, and sincerely trust that you will completely recover this summer. It was very cold last February and the river was frozen up, the other winter months were moderate; last summer was unusually hot and this caused much sickness. There was hardly a house here where there was not at least one person sick; however, they were not dangerously ill, as yellow fever, burning fever, whooping cough are the general sicknesses. Now that summer is over, these are decreasing. You have no conception of the extreme heat in this section of the country; even when sitting still in the shade the perspiration will run down your face. The continued perspiration irritates the skin and it prickles as if you were stung with nettles. This causes the skin to break out all over your body, and you are forced to scratch yourself so hard that you bleed. They say that this rash is very good and that it prevents severe illness. Stout people suffer more, and Fritzchen and I had our share of prickly heat, whereas the lean members of the family did not get it.

We cannot thank our Lord enough that He allows us to be in such good health. Christiane deplores the loss of her baby quite often. It might have been better if she had seen the child, as I am certain that she would be just as thankful as I am that our good Lord took him away, for his little legs were deformed. However, since Christy did not see him, she pictures him in her mind as a normal baby with a beautiful body, and that makes her feel very sad. Time heals many wounds, and I sincerely trust that Christy will get over her grief. She has a lovely disposition and she looks fine; she realizes that it would be ungrateful toward our Lord if she were not satisfied. We really have every reason in the world to thank our good Lord. Excepting minor ailments, which are hardly worth mentioning, we are enjoying the best of health, we love each other, we feel that we love each other more now than ever before, we simply live one for the other, we cannot see how it could be possible to love each other more, and even now we may get an opportunity to give proof of a still higher, and more ardent and more sacred love.

O, dass sie ewig grünen bliebe,
Die schöne Zeit jungen Liebe!

Oh, that, forever fresh and vernal,
First love's sweet season were eternal!

And now our dear children—may our good Lord protect them. They flourish so that you can see that our dear Lord Himself takes care of them with all his holy angels. May He protect their souls and bodies in the future, and may He give us wisdom to bring them up according to His wishes. They are learning well and the teacher is greatly pleased with them.

Mathilde helps her mother, especially on Saturdays, so that she may get permission to wear her white dress on Sundays and the white collar and the pearls which belong to her mother.

Even these long days are much too short for Carlchen. He is so busy with building a house or arranging a little garden that he does not notice when it grows dark. Several nights ago he called in his sleep: “Tilla, oh Tilla, my chimney fell!”

Fritzchen does what Emperor Franz used to do: “Things remain as they are.” Eating, drinking, playing, and sleeping—that is all he asks for; he lets others worry and thinks what his uncle Carl thought, when he was living with his father: “The dear ‘old man’ is satisfied with me, why should I be dissatisfied!”

They often play “Grandmother in Lennep and Aunt Julia,” and Fritzchen says: “Aunt grandmother, my really dear aunt grandmother, sent me many fine toys. I am grandmother’s dear Fritzchen, and I’ll give her something too.”

When he bites off a piece of his apple or of his bread, he takes it out of his mouth and puts it aside for grandmother. After a short while he sees that grandmother does not come to get this piece, he takes it back and eats it himself. When he gets tired he lies down on the floor wherever he happens to be and sleeps to his heart’s content.

Owing to the intense heat the Ohio River is lower than it has been for many years and only small boats can navigate, and this makes business very quiet. In spite of this fact I earned more during July and August than I did the year before. I have no reason to be dissatisfied, as you will see from my statement:

MONTH	SALES	GROSS PROFIT	EXPENSES	NET PROFIT
August	\$162.00	\$74.37½	\$59.00	\$15.37½
Sept.	102.06¾	50.37½	39.75	10.62½

Next spring I intend to start a new business with Mr. Kayser as partner. Mr. Kayser is living with us already and he pays us the customary price of three dollars per week. We asked him to live with us, and this gives us a very good opportunity to get better acquainted. I do not doubt that we shall come to a complete agreement. Kayser

has very praiseworthy principles, he is very manly, is thirty-one years old, he likes his home—this is what Christy likes best about him—he has a keen conception of religion and righteousness, and he despises Jews, not so much the individual Jew, as their fundamental doctrines. In short, he seems to be the right man for me, and, unless something unforeseen should occur, we may start a larger business together by next spring, and may our good Lord sanction our new enterprise.

My dear mother, you write that you are sixty-three years old now. This is a nice age; may our Lord allow you many more years in this life! If it is God's will, we can overcome even the greatest obstacles. I am thirty-six years old, and it is likely that I have already lived more than one-half of my life. The years of childhood were my nicest years, as they are with most people; then came a bad year, when I was supposed to learn dyeing, which I did not want to learn; then my four years of apprenticeship, which were moderately good, and I was fairly satisfied with my destiny; then a few years free from care when I enjoyed life, and when I lived only for the present and did not think of the future; and then again bad years—provision business—betrothed, with no possibility of supporting myself, much less a family. Then Carl's death!

What a thrill of delight I feel when I recall to my mind that the amiable Mr. Ambros cannot embrace me any more, and that the actions of the pretty but stupidly proud Wilhelm will not disgust the often slighted poor fellow any longer. I was treated fairly at Strohn's, not because of kindheartedness, not because of acknowledgement for service rendered—to do this they were too mean and greedy—but because I was almost indispensable, and they were afraid of losing me if they did not treat me rightly; both had to ask me for advice, and I did not have to ask them.

My life in Lennep was only tolerable. You cannot call a dependent life happy when you have to rely on people like Ambros and Wilhelm, and particularly not, when you observe that your acquaintances, friends, and schoolmates can start a business of their own. My love for Christy enabled me to endure this, and Christy even now calls that year her time of roses (*Rosenzeit*). Then came Bielefeld. It was fair enough at first, it looked as if we had a nice future ahead of us, but it soon changed. Then the last recourse—America.

To prepare for the trip, to answer all the unnecessary questions of inquisitive people was very disagreeable, the ocean trip was troublesome but successful; our landing was such that I shudder

even today when I think of it, but our good Lord was with us. We liked living on the farm just as much as you, dear Julchen, would like to go to Ambros and write letters from early morning till late in the night. You know how to write, and there is no reason why you could not use this knowledge to earn a living. I knew how to chop wood, to dig, mow, hoe, etc., but it was a hard time for us, imposed upon us by our heavenly Father so that we may realize that all our ways and doings are of no use without His blessing. I started my business in a small way in Cincinnati, but I made a living for all of us, and it grew better every day. However, we never felt really happy and satisfied until we were here in Louisville.

Thank God, we are really happy now! Healthy and fine children, pleasing prospects for the future, no worries, quite the contrary—on the average a little surplus every month, good living, a nice home, love, joy, and gladness in the family, and no aggravations, for we live only for ourselves, as good books are our only companions. What else can you wish for in this world? I can think of nothing, and if you can name something else, I feel sure that we have it too, whatever it may be. I am not able to think of a better name, so I shall call it contentedness and confidence in our good Lord.

Although I lived in Germany about twenty years—not counting the years of my childhood—and in spite of the fact that I never felt happy in Germany, the thought of my home country fills me with sadness and tenderness, but not on account of patriotism, for I think that the country of my birth is not very appreciative. If I should ever return to Germany, I would most certainly not move to Lennep. I recall with intense longing the years gone by—I like to think of their manners and customs and of our dear friends and relatives.

In this country it is altogether different. You are thrown on your own resources; yet I do not notice this very much. I am happy with my darling wife and my lovely children, and you can hardly imagine how much joy they really provide for us. I am convinced that you would not be able to give preference to one of them, if you had all three with you; I cannot do it and they are lovable, every one in his own way. Carlchen is the best endowed with intelligence, but he is also the least restrained and, therefore, hardest to manage. Mathildchen is gentle but a little prankish at times and she can act as if butter wouldn't melt in her mouth. Fritzchen, oh well, when he gets something good to eat and some nice toys, he is well satisfied with himself and the entire world. Mother—what can I say about her—she is just as amiable as always, she looks and feels better than she did in Germany.

Christelchen has completely recovered and we have no maid at the present time, as the girl became sick, but we shall take her back as soon as she is well again. I do not wish Christy to do all the work alone since we are financially better off. She did all the washing today and she is as tired as a dog, and why should it be that way? Are we supposed to hoard what God gave us or are we supposed to use it wisely? I think that the latter is the right thing to do, and that you should make your life as pleasant as you can afford to make it. We do not have to amass a fortune in this country to assure the success of our children. Oh dear, you asked for a short letter and I have already filled four pages before starting to answer your letter. But have patience, my next letter may be shorter, or perhaps not.

Our new supply of camomile is very good and it cured my cold in a short time; thank God, I am feeling fine. Dear mother, tell me in your next letter what arrangements you intend to make in regard to Julchen in case you should pass away before she does. We must not overlook that this is a very important matter and we should give it our serious consideration. I do not hesitate to give you my true sentiment about this.

The main and most important point is, in my opinion, to take care of such matters at a time when you are still able to act, in order to prevent the court from interfering, or else the small sum that is left will be eaten up by the costs. It may be necessary for you to make a testament and to file this in the court, together with the affidavit in which I renounced all my claims in favor of Julchen, as your sole heir, without interference of the court. After this is settled the next question is: Will there be enough left, so that Julchen can live on the interest without being compelled to accept the help of an aid society. Can Julchen take over the duties herself after your departure, such as rents, taxes, interest, etc., and if not, who will take care and handle this conscientiously for her? To sell everything, to pay all the obligations, and to move to the country has its difficulties, and the question still remains open: Is there enough left for Julchen to live on the interest?

If Julchen cannot live on the interest after your departure, and if she has to rely on strangers for her support, I should suggest selling everything and coming to us. This could be accomplished by joining a family which is emigrating to America. I give you, dear Julchen, the assurance that you will not have to suffer want as long as I have something to live on. I cannot help thinking that you will have a hard struggle, and that you may feel very lone-

some after our dear mother is gone, and it is my earnest wish to see you here with us. The trip will be a hardship beyond description, and I suggest—if that necessity should ever come—to take this step with courage and confidence in our Lord, who leads our destiny. You do not have to fear danger, as no hair will fall from our head without the will of our Father in heaven. Think this matter over and do not delay until it is too late.

What plans have our dear cousins when our aunt has departed? I hope they have given this due consideration. I do not know if Luther or somebody else said the following: “When praying, pray as if you were prepared to die this very moment, and when working—that is when you are providing for your temporal welfare—do it as if you would live forever.” I am touching upon an unpleasant and somewhat sad subject and I trust that you realize the truth of the proverb: “If you intend to give good advice, you must not talk about pleasant things only.” Let’s hope that all this was written many years too soon and that our dear mother will remain with us for many more years to come; but a complete rest feels best after the work is done, and you can face the future with more ease of mind when such important matters have been taken care of.

Dear mother, you ask me if I would not like to have Fritz as a partner, and if it were not better for Fritz to be with me rather than with Lindenheim? My answer is: “No, I thank you for this honor.” Fritz became, under the guidance of Lindenheim, too much of a Jew to be a good partner for me, and he is more interested in outdoing the Jew in Jewish business methods—this expression is really too mild. They took in another son of Abraham as partner and ever since, the Germans in this city call our Wall Street the Jews’ Street. We are good friends, but that is as far as I wish to go. We have heard nothing from Carl and Pauck; I feel sure that they are getting along all right; if this were not the case, we should have heard from them already.

Thanks for all the most interesting news you sent us and also for the *Kreisblätter*.¹ If I find the time during the winter, I may write some articles for your paper about America and American life, and I may send them to you. If they are published, friend Schumacher may pay you a nice remuneration. You might ask him through Burcher if you could expect fifty *Taler* for these; of course I should omit my drawings. However, if Schumacher does not care to pay anything, I will not take the trouble to write such articles.

¹ County newspaper.

Your new mayor seems to be the right man in the right place; you have law and order now, and everybody seems to be more satisfied than in times immemorial. I am glad that you sent our greetings to von B. in R. Carl Nohl is a rich man, but it would be fun if Gustavus Wulfing should become still richer. Who can tell whether we shall pluck roses, or if the shoe will pinch us!

Thanks for the greetings from our friends and neighbors, and we extend our greetings to all of them. I shall come to our greetings to relatives later on. Extend our heartfelt condolence to the Roentgens, we certainly feel sorry for them. We arranged with our friend of the family, Mr. Kayser, to take the Lord's Supper together, and may our Lord bless our new friendship. Religion is not taught in the schools in this country except in a general way, since Catholic, Reformed, and Lutheran children go to the same school. The parents have to teach religion to their own children, and the pastor later on. It is a real pleasure to observe our children come home from school and tell Fritzchen what they have learned. Today's subject was God's love manifested by the beautiful sun. My dear mother, this concludes answering your letter; I shall answer Julchen's letter next Sunday, and in the meantime I wish you good night.

My dear Julchen:

Complying with your wish, I drew another picture and I gave you another proof of my artistic skill. I hope you will be able to understand the arrangement of our home with the aid of the explanations. We heard yesterday that the girl who was with us but left on account of sickness, and whom we wanted to take back, was buried a week ago. It is better for her, she was a fine girl and there is no doubt in my mind that she is better off; we shall have to try to find another girl. Many thanks for the fine presents; I believe Christy will write to you herself, and when I find the time I may write a few lines to our dear aunt and her children, or I may do it as soon as possible.

I thank you for answering my letter of January 31 before Mr. Becker left. It seems to me that letters from America reach you more promptly than letters mailed in Germany to America. If I find no opportunity to forward this letter to New York within a few days, I shall post it here; please let me know when this letter arrived, if the seal was in good order, how much you had to pay, and what cancellation stamps were marked on it. I like to know this, as I wish to find the best way to send letters to you. I shall write direct

to Julius Wüsthoff; if you approve of my plans, then ask his Uncle Vollmer to come and see you and find out what he has to say. I should like to have the boy here within a year, but I ask you to give me exact information in your next letter in regard to his character, talent, faithfulness, and honesty, for it is no trifle for me to risk \$100.00 on him; I know only about the years of his childhood.

Thanks very much for all the information regarding Lennep. This reminds me very much of past times, and it shows clearly the contrast between here and Lennep. Of course it is most important to know what your neighbor cooks today, or whether she wears her black silk dress or the other pretty dress when she goes to church. In this country you hardly know the people who live in the same house with you, and I do not know six people in our immediate neighborhood. Please do not think that I intend to accuse the fair sex of inquisitiveness; I simply say that there are different manners and customs in different countries.

I do not approve of your suggestion that Christy bake a cake and then tell the youngster it was baked by grandmother, etc. They would find out within a short time that this was a lie, and later on, when you wanted to reprimand them they would say: "Mother was lying too, the cake would have been spoiled, if it had been sent across the ocean." We had a similar experience with the youngsters a short time ago. They do not believe any more that a baby brother or baby sister comes across the ocean, for Tilla said: "It would die, if mother did not nurse it."

Your letters please us very much although they have not the same effect on us as they have on mother. I will put aside your letter to the children, as I hope that they will know enough German by next summer to answer it themselves.

I believe that I have fully answered your letter and I shall close now by asking you to give greetings to our dear relatives and inform them about the contents as much as you wish. We hope to get at least one more letter from you this year.

Farewell, my dear, and think of us very often, as we shall think often of you. Remember us in love, and now once more greetings and kisses from your beloved ones in America.

YOUR GUSTAVUS.

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, September 10, 1838.

In the first volume of the *Book of Sermons* which you sent us, the third sermon by Kannmacher about Psalm 133 contains sinful

rubish, e. g.: "Innate love is repulsive and contemptible in the eyes of God; our children will reproach us on the Day of Judgment that we taught them virtue in place of penitence." In concluding he said in substance: "If you want to see where brothers live in harmony, come to Elberfeld and see how your ministers—your teachers—live." What humility, what repentance! This sermon—we read only the first three sermons—makes me dislike the whole book, and, dear Julchen, I should feel elated if you could set me right. It may be possible that I do not understand it, Luther's language appeals to me better than the language of the . . .

My dear Aunt and dear Cousins:

I had intended to write you a separate letter, but I really should not know what to write about without repeating a good deal of my letter to mother. I was reading my letter to my beloved Christelchen, and she tells me that she is too tired to write anything now; she would prefer to do so some other time. We both wish to thank you for the valuable presents and we regard them as a token of your love. I value the straps in particular, as they were made by your own hands. We hope to get an opportunity to show you our sincere appreciation. Many thanks. Christiane tells me that I must go to New York to meet any of our dear relatives from Lennep, if one of you should care to come to America, and I believe she is right about this. Think it over, and perhaps it may become reality. I doubt that I can take a trip to Germany before the boys are able to take care of the business. It may be sooner than I think at the present time. Who can tell?

You have no idea how happy we felt when Mr. Becker arrived with the presents and letters. He had to tell us much about Germany, and the time passed quickly with asking and answering questions. Please give our heartfelt greetings to our dear relatives in Osna-brück, Dohr, and Barmen, and transmit extra thanks to Jettchen Sp. for the beautiful keepsake, and tell all of them that we are getting along well. Farewell, beloved ones; may our good Lord grant all of you, particularly you, dear aunt, many pleasant days, and may He lighten the infirmities of old age; and please remember us in kindness. Please write us soon again, and once more, hearty greetings from myself, my dear Christiane, and our children. Farewell! Farewell! Farewell!

What shall I write in this little space? I know of nothing but greetings. I can find no opportunity to send this letter to New York,

so I shall post it tomorrow, September 17 (1838). It just occurs to me that it will be three years tomorrow morning since we left Bremerhafen to enter the North Sea. Since that time we have experienced, endured, and suffered much, but we have also felt deeply the love, grace, and kindness of our heavenly Father, and we assert with gratitude:

Our good Lord did everything well, He guided us wonderfully, let us be grateful and honor, praise, and worship Him in all eternity!

Farewell! May God be with you and bless us all!

Cancellation stamp reads:

New York, September 28 (1838).

Dear Julius:

Accept my thanks for your fine letter of April 1 of this year. I was very much pleased about it and I hope you will appreciate my answering you directly. I see from your letter that you wish to come to America and, since I wish only the best for you, I advise you to the best of my knowledge to make up your mind firmly and irrevocably, and to come—the sooner the better—with cheerful courage and confidence in our Lord.

What are your prospects over there? First, you have to study until you are eighteen years old, then a few years as private tutor, then three years of military life, and then, if you are lucky, permanent employment with a salary from 150 to 300 *Taler* per annum without ever having an opportunity to make headway. In this country you can earn something beginning with the first hour after your arrival. If you wish, I will send you \$100.00 (about 130 Prussian *Taler*) to cover the expenses of your trip and give you a job in my business. I will pay you in the first year \$50.00, besides room and board at our family table. If I am satisfied with you, I may pay you more, possibly twice as much. In this manner you can work off the loan of \$100.00 in a short time; then you begin to save for yourself.

If your brother Friedrich wishes to come over after he is confirmed, you can loan him as much money as he may need from your own funds. As I said before, I strongly advise you to do this and I am absolutely convinced that you will be glad later on that you listened to me. I came here on a venture with wife and children, and we thank our good Lord every day that He led us to this country. You will have to take care of yourself only and you will find a

friendly and understanding reception with old friends as soon as you get here, and I advise you strongly to come to us. Give this letter your careful consideration, talk it over with your uncle and aunt, extend my greetings to them, and let me know your decision as soon as possible.

As soon as I have your answer and know when you expect to come, I shall send \$100.00 to my mother for you, and I shall furnish you with complete information in regard to your trip. At the same time I shall give you a letter of recommendation to a friend in Bremen and another to a firm in New York, and I shall try my very best to make the trip as easy for you as it can be done. You will realize that you have to come to a positive conclusion, so that I shall not be going to the trouble and expense in vain.

This letter will reach you in November. You can make up your mind and give me a definite answer before the year ends; your answer will reach me late in February, and the money will be at your disposal toward the end of May, 1839.

If you wish to come to America to become a merchant, and if you feel that you can rely on my judgment, you may rest assured that I will take care of you to the best of my ability. When you have made up your mind, sit down and study English; to know French is beneficial, arithmetic, etc., drawing and music are valuable knowledge; most of the other subjects which are taught in German schools are superfluous in this country. It is not important that you know the height of the Blocksberg (a mountain), or where Reitz, Gleitz, and Schleitz, etc., are located, or the square miles of the County of Bückeburg, or how many people live in Berlin, or how many angles will form a triangle; but it is important for you to know how to write and figure, also English, German, and French; and possessing perseverance, diligence, steadfastness, courage, and good health—that is most important.

Trust in God, my dear Julius, think the matter over, ask the advice of your relatives and people who are interested in you, and make a quick decision. Give me your reply as soon as possible and write to me at the same time how you are situated financially, so that I can advise you to your best advantage. Also let me know if you can join a family, if you do not know of any, this can easily be arranged in Bremen. The best way to travel to Bremen is by stage-coach.

I know of nothing else to write about for the present, except that I wish you would come to us. Do not fear the danger and do not allow the hardships to spoil your trip, as they cannot be avoided. We

are in the hands of God and nothing can happen to us without His will.

Farewell, and give me your answer as soon as you can.

Friendly greetings from all of us,

GUSTAVUS WULFING.

LOUISVILLE IN THE STATE

OF KENTUCKY, IN

NORTH AMERICA, September 16, 1838.

My address is:

Mr. Gustavus Wulfing

Louisville, Ky.

North America

via New York

per Bremen

prepaid Sea-Boundary

LOUISVILLE, KY., February 10, 1839.

Dearly beloved Mother and dear Julchen:

Though I intended to wait for an answer to my letter of September 16 of last year, I shall devote this Sunday afternoon to a chat with you. Thank God, we are getting along well and we are healthy and contented. I received your kind letter of October 24 of last year and I wish to thank you for it. Including the above mentioned letter of October 24 I have received all your letters so far, with the exception of your very first letter of December 11, 1835, in which you notified us of the departure of our sister Christy, and the letter of October 21, 1837, which was changed by your post office to Havre de Grace and New Orleans.

I had a very nice letter from Mr. D. von Berg, of Remscheid, and I ask you to transmit to him our thanks and greetings, and say that I shall answer him as soon as possible. We hear and see nothing from Löhne. Where does August live now? Please tell us something about them, if you know of anything; at least tell us if they are all well. Christy wrote them two nice letters without getting a reply, and this can only mean that they do not wish to get letters from us. There is no doubt in our minds that father received our letters, as we sent them together with letters for you, and you have answered them a long time ago.

Pauck was here a week ago, they christened their baby on Christmas and they are getting along well; also Carl, whose wife is expecting a baby. Fritz too is getting along well; he has postponed

his intended trip to Europe at least for the time being. The girl he hoped to win acted toward Gretchen in such a way that Gretchen knew without asking her that she was not interested in Fritz. Gretchen suggested another girl, but Fritz does not seem to be in a hurry now; besides he depends too much on his Jewish partners, for he lacks independence. Their business is slow at present, same as all other business, but they earn a little more than their expenses.

My business is slow too owing to the crisis which exists all over America. Fritz and I suffer most on account of the low water in the Ohio River. The river was so low last summer and is even now so low that only small steamboats can navigate. Since our customers consist of people who work on boats, the height of the water is a most important factor with us. Last November the water was somewhat higher for about ten days and this meant good business for everybody. My balance is not as good as I expected, but I gained a little nevertheless:

MONTH	SALES	EARNINGS	EXPENSES	GAIN	LOSS
1838					
Sept.	\$ 69.06	\$28.12	\$33.00		\$ 4.87½
Oct.	91.43	41.12	74.43		33.31¼
Nov.	201.75	85.50	39.43	\$46.06¼	
Dec.	109.06	52.00	46.81	5.18¾	
1839					
Jan.	82.18	37.56	33.75	3.81¼	

If times were better, Mr. Kayser and I would have started our new business by this time, but we intend to wait until spring now. Mr. Kayser lives with us, he is a close friend and we have come to a complete understanding; we are waiting for higher water and then we shall look for larger business quarters. As far as we can judge now we harmonize well; Kayser is economical and respectable, he knows American business ways and he is ambitious. May heaven bless us, and everything turn out well!

I am pleased that Julius wants to come to America. I assure you that it is my honest opinion that he will do better in this country than he would in Germany, even if someone should give him a thousand *Taler* on the condition that he stay. If he becomes a teacher he would be lucky to earn after many years as much as 300 *Taler* per annum, and if he were fortunate enough to earn more, the entire country would talk about such unheard of luck; if he is not inclined to become a teacher, even a still higher salary would not make him happy.

If he wishes to become a merchant, he would have to go into a hardware store, or some other store, and he would have to pass through an apprenticeship of four to six years, and then serve as a soldier; or, if he is not subject to army service, he would be a humble traveling salesman or an office attendant until he succeeds enough, by exercising the greatest thrift, to start a small store, etc. He would not be able to help his brother, no matter how hard he tried; and Friedrich would have to go through the same struggle to be able to earn a living. If the two boys wish, or are compelled, to stay in Germany, I would advise them to learn a good old-fashioned trade, simply because I know from my own experience what opportunities a merchant without capital has in Germany. Think this over most carefully and tell it to all concerned.

If Julius comes to America this summer, I shall give him room and board besides fifty dollars or more the first year, and we shall treat him as our own child. As soon as I get his answer and the consent of his guardian, I shall send \$100.00 and letters of recommendation, and I shall give him complete instructions about the best way to make the trip. If he makes up his mind to come, he should make every effort to learn English. By the time Friedrich is confirmed, Julius will have saved enough to loan him \$100.00, so that he can come to this country too, and in this way he could be a great help to his younger brother. I do not wish to promise too much, and for that reason I promise to pay only fifty dollars for the first year; however, I intend to pay him more, and I feel certain that it will be more, if I am satisfied with him. I hope he is good, industrious, loyal, and orderly, and I ask you to give me as much information about him as you can. I shall not wait any longer for your answer to my last letter and I intend to post this letter soon.

Last week Mathilde discovered unexpectedly a small red foot, after having almost knitted up a skein of yarn; her joy was beyond bounds and tears came into her eyes. The children would very much like to visit their grandmother, and they give us much joy—Carl, especially, studies very hard; they speak German fairly well, but they prefer English and speak it better. Fritzchen speaks very little German, as he likes English. Mathilde seems to have a strong inclination for music; it is a pity that the teacher cannot sing. Carl does not care much for this, but he reads English better than Mathilde. M. learns sewing in school. They go to the Baptist school on Sundays, where they also teach reading, writing, arithmetic, singing, etc.

I believe that you are right in regard to Christelchen's overworking. In the future we shall hire a maid earlier, so that Christy may take better care of herself, if the case should ever arise. Please tell Mr. Daniel von Berg in Remscheid to write to Postmaster Wessel in Bielefeld in my name and to ask him to forward the letter to him. I have already written you that we received your letters and all the presents through Mr. Becker, and I hope to get an answer to my letter of September 16 soon. I am pleased to hear that Mr. Speyer paid another forty *Taler* to Aunt Gottfried, and I trust he will continue to do so, as I like to see my obligation reduced.

We thank you for much news, and you can see clearly that there as well as here or anywhere else money is the most important question. We are happy and we thank our Lord that we have better health now than ever before. A trip to America is considered a great hardship in Germany; it is a hardship, but only for a family with small children and much baggage. Julius in spite of his youth could make the trip twice and yet he would not endure as much trouble as we did on one trip, particularly, since I shall furnish him with letters of recommendation for Bremen, New York, and Cincinnati, and give him full instructions about everything. He can safely undertake the trip and trust in God.

Since there are always families traveling to this country, and since I shall recommend him to a firm in Bremen, it should be an easy matter to find a respectable family whom he can join. When he arrives in New York he will find a letter and complete information at the office of a business friend of Mr. D. von Berg, in which I will tell him the best way to reach Cincinnati, where Carl and Pauck will take care of him. In short this trip will be a pleasure trip compared to our trip; no child will fall against a hot stove or cry on account of hunger and cold. When we came over we met Pauck in Cincinnati, but he himself did not know yet what to do, and he could not help us much, as we did not know English. If Julius wishes to come, do not try to hold him back; you may think that you do him a favor, but that is not the case.

Dear mother, I would not write this if I were not convinced that it is better for Julius; do not make it unnecessarily hard for him. There are thousands of boys who would be glad if they had such a fine offer.

Dear Julchen, it was nice of you to write us a few lines. We are always happy when we see your cordial interest in our welfare. You have no idea how often our thoughts are with you and how much we talk about our dear Germany, and this includes the chil-

dren. Mathilde is a great help to her mother. Fritzchen can count to a hundred in English and to twenty in German, and the other children know arithmetic in both languages, and they can count to twenty in French. The children are our joy and they mean everything to us. May God keep them healthy. They are good and well behaved. Mathilde is very gentle and affectionate, and she can easily be taught with words. Carlchen is very lively, unrestrained, gay, and courageous, very kindhearted but easily misled, and we have to watch his companionship with other school children. He will cry when Mathilde and Fritzchen are punished for something, and a few minutes later, when he makes the same mistake, and when he gets the same punishment, he will not cry. He likes to give, but Fritzchen does not, and he can never get enough; to eat, drink, play, and sleep—that is his occupation. I believe he will succeed in life with his slowness, and I feel confident that he will not bother much with worries and aggravations. He takes life as it is, and not as it ought to be. He takes care of himself first and does not worry about others. This maxim is not so bad.

Greetings from all of us to you dears, to our dear Aunt Peter and our cousins, and to all the other relatives, acquaintances, and friends. Ackermann is not inclined to come to America. I believe it would not be so bad, but I do not wish to influence him too much, as he seems to get along all right. Conrad Roentgen should come to this country, it would be better than handling rags. Give Roentgen our regards, and also greetings to our dear friends and relatives in Barmen and Osnabrück. Visitors are calling just now, and I must close, with best wishes for all of you. Please write again soon and use our old address.

Sunday evening. Christy, Mathilde, and Carl are sitting opposite me. Christy looks like a girl eighteen years old with rosy cheeks, etc. Mathilde is going to be like her mother; she has large blue eyes, and a little mouth which tempts you to kiss her; in eight years, or less, she will wish to know more about life. Carl is going to be a handsome, slender young man when the time comes and when he is looking at the girls with his confidence-inspiring blue eyes. I doubt that he will remain alone in this world very long. Fritzchen is sound asleep. Mother is reading a sermon from the book, *Intellectual Power*, etc. Mr. Kayser is not at home. Mathilde wishes to visit grandmother soon. Carl says he will have to grow up and earn money first, but he will be only seven years old next summer.

Farewell, and write soon. Many hearty greetings from all of us and particularly from your devoted

Son and Brother,
GUSTAVUS.

I will post this letter tomorrow.

Cancellation stamps read:

New York, February 20 (1839).

COPY

LOUISVILLE, KY., March 10, 1839.

Dear Julius:

Your fine letter of January of this year, in which you notify me of your decision to come to America, and wherein you assure me of the consent of your uncle and aunt, has pleased me very much. As I wrote in my last letter of February to my mother, I am absolutely convinced that coming to Louisville is the very best thing for you to do. I received your letter day before yesterday, and I sent yesterday \$105.00 to a firm in Cincinnati and ordered a draft on Bremen, Europe, for 125.00 *Taler* in Louis d'or of 5 *Taler*. It will be three weeks before I get the draft, as the firm in Cincinnati will have to order it in Baltimore. I will write my letters to you in the meantime.

I expect to get two drafts, an "original" and a "duplicate," as this precaution is absolutely essential in transmarine business transactions. I shall write this letter two times. One letter I shall send with the "original" draft via New York and Havre de Grace, and the second letter with the "duplicate" draft via Bremen. It does not make any difference which letter arrives first. As soon as you get the first letter, take it yourself to Mr. D. von Berg, in Remscheid, give him letter and draft, and ask him to cash the draft for me, and to inquire from Bremen what ships are leaving for New York, when they leave, how they are equipped, and how much they charge for steerage passage, etc.

A copper-covered ship with three masts is the safest; of course it must not be too old. I do not like for you to go via Cologne, since a sea-going ship which can also go on the Rhine naturally must be very small. Mr. Holterhoff in Cologne can give you the best information in regard to Rhine sea ships; it may be the more convenient way for you to travel. Mr. von Berg may be willing to find this out for you. It would not make much difference, even if the fare from Cologne to New York were twenty *Taler* more than from

Bremen, since your trip to Bremen, and the freight would cost you at least twenty *Taler*. If you travel via Cologne, your dear uncle can escort you to the ship, and this would be a wonderful thing for you. If the ship is good, you may prefer to come via Cologne. As a rule you will have to compromise about the fare, the agents employ Jewish methods in most cases.

Before, or during the time when you are corresponding with Cologne and Bremen, go to the mayor of Lennep and apply for a permit to emigrate to America. It will take some time to get this, as the permit is issued in Düsseldorf, and the government officials are as a rule very slow in transacting business. I had to pay one *Taler* and fifteen *Silbergroschen* for my permit. A permit will release you from your duties to the Prussian government, and, therefore, a permit is better than a mere traveling pass. If you have a permit and if you wish to return after several years, they cannot force you to serve in the army. By getting only a traveling pass you will remain a Prussian subject, and, you may have to serve in the army later on, no matter how old you are at the time when you come back. Since you are liable for military service in only four years, it is possible that they may not approve of your emigration. In that case apply for a permit to spend one year in New York. If this is refused too, which would be against all expectations, then you cannot travel via Cologne, as there is no doubt in my mind that all passports are carefully looked into. All that is left for you to do is to try to obtain a traveling pass for Bremen by stating that you intend to enter a business firm in Bremen as apprentice. They can hardly refuse you a pass when you give this reason. Bremen will not cause you any trouble, and they will endorse your passport to New York.¹ Most emigrants have no passport at all, and they encounter no difficulties in spite of this. Here in America only Negroes are required to have passes. You must not lose any time in applying for your permit.

Before agreeing on the price for passage, arrange definitely that you do not wish to get the regular steerage food, but seek to obtain the same fare as the sailors get, even if you have to pay five or ten *Taler* more. Insist on this agreement in writing both from the owners of the ship and also from the captain. It would be best if you can secure passage to Philadelphia direct, but these ships are rare. New York is the best landing place after Philadelphia,

¹ Bremen was not under the authority of the King of Prussia, as it was one of the Hanseatic cities and as such had an independent government.

and Baltimore should be your third choice. Do not go to New Orleans under any conditions, as it is too unhealthy.

Write me as soon as the draft is cashed, and as soon as you know the name of your ship, when it leaves, and where it goes, and give me also the name of the family you are traveling with. Then write again from your landing place, and give me the exact route which you intend to travel, and tell me how you are getting along so far. My address is:

From Germany:
Mr. Gustavus Wulfing
Louisville, Ky.
via New York
Nord-Amerika
prepaid Havre de Grace.

From your landing place:
Mr. Gustavus Wulfing
Louisville, Ky.

During the time that the draft is being cashed, and while you are arranging for transportation, you may prepare the following: In clothing it is well to have six good shirts, two pairs of trousers, one or two coats, two black neck cloths of poplin, one dozen linen socks, two pairs of good boots, and one pair of good shoes, and an old cap—not a new one, as nobody wears caps here. The old cap must have a strong chin-strap to prevent it from being blown into the sea. No hat, they take too much space, and hats are cheap over here. Besides the above mentioned, it would be well to have from two to six smocks, woolen socks, and two cardigan jackets. For the trip your oldest things will be good enough, but they must be good and strong. An old jacket would be very handy. You need about six shirts, six pairs of socks, one pair of boots, one pair of pants, and a cardigan during the trip, also two neck-shawls, or one shawl and one smock, and the cap. Pack all things which you do not use, such as books, music, and drawing material, in a strong case with two handles, and mark your full name on the case with large-size letters.

The case must be packed solidly so that everything is firmly held together, it must be nailed shut and iron-banded. All things which you intend to use during the trip should be packed in a small box or trunk with a strong padlock. The case will be stored on the ship in the lowest compartment, you keep the box or trunk with you, and tie it to your bed as closely as you can. This is absolutely necessary owing to the rocking of the ship. A third box, also with handles and padlock, should contain such things as you use every day, such as comb, soap, brush, two towels, the New Testa-

ment, an English manual, so that you can practice if you are not too seasick, fork, spoon, knife, a diary, and lead pencils.

Conceal all your surplus money under your clothes. After you have paid for your passage, and when all your other expenses in Germany are paid, then try to exchange the balance of your money for Napoleon d'or, or five-Franc pieces, as you can easily dispose of them in this country. Do not carry Prussian money and by no means *Silbergroschen*.

For provisions during the ocean trip I advise you to buy smoked ham for one or one and a half *Taler*, also dried prunes, and eat some every day out of your pocket; they say that this is the best preventive against seasickness, and we too liked them better than anything else. Take a small one-sixth-quart bottle along with a strong string, so that you can secretly get some fresh water out of the barrels which you will find on the deck. Buy for a quarter-*Taler* onions and eat them raw; they are very good to prevent seasickness; for a half-*Taler*, tea; a dozen herring, some mustard and pepper, and as many apples as you can pack in your trunk. On the vessel you will need a dinner pail with a lid, a leaden pot for coffee or tea, and a tin bucket with lid which you need in case of seasickness. Furthermore, a woolen blanket, your own bedding, or in place of it a mattress containing flocks of wool covered with grey linen, and a pillow, also covered with grey linen. Try to get a bed near the center mast, where you feel the rocking of the ship the least; in upper beds you will get more air than in lower beds.

Take some big nails, rope, and string along, as everything must be secured fast on the ship. Do not forget a good pocket-knife, needles, thread, etc. You will need no bed sheets, but a large sack to hold the bedding when it is not used. It is better to sleep away from the wall, since the wall is always cold. To add a little vinegar to your drinking water is very good. Vinegar and everything else—except what I mentioned before—you can get on the ship. Eau de Cologne is good against dizziness. It is very important that you take care of your things and keep your trunk always locked. After thinking it over, I believe it is not necessary to send you letters of recommendation for Bremen or New York, etc.; it will be better if you ask Mr. von Berg to give you such letters. Mr. von Berg has friends in both places and, no doubt, he will be glad to do this for me. We lived in New York at Scheuermann's lodging house, 215 Washington Street, not far from the landing place, and we paid three dollars per week for each person.

Do not travel via Buffalo from New York; take a steamboat to

Philadelphia and take all your baggage along. Take the railroad from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh, and this will cost you seven dollars plus one dollar and thirty-seven and a half cents per cwt. for your baggage. In Pittsburgh you can stay in Mr. Smith's place. He is a musician in the German Militia Company, and lives on Second Street. Tell Mr. Smith that Mr. Frederick Semmelroth, of Louisville, recommended him to you, ask him to select a good steamboat to Louisville for you, and to assist you with your baggage. If there is no boat available to Louisville, then take one to Cincinnati. You will find there a German pharmacist, Mr. Backhaus, on Main Street. Call on him and tell him that you are traveling to me, and ask him to be so kind as to direct you to my brothers-in-law, either to Mr. T. H. Pauck or to Mr. C. H. Schmieding; they will give you all the help you may need. When you arrive in Louisville, find the German coffee house of Mr. Miller; his sign reads: "New Orleans Coffee House," and he will show you where I live. We intend to take larger business quarters, and I do not know as yet where we shall be at that time. Mr. Miller is a German, he lives at No. 10 Front Street, right opposite the landing place. In Bremen we stayed at I. C. Kroll's on *Johannisstrasse*, and his charges were reasonable.

March 24.

The draft has not come yet, but I expect to get it almost any day. In the meantime I have found a wonderful traveling opportunity for you. On April 1 a young man twenty-five years old will leave Cincinnati for Bremen, he expects to stay there about two months, and then he will return to Cincinnati. My brother-in-law, Mr. Pauck, and our good friend, the teacher of our children, Mr. Pogemann, recommended this young man very highly, and he has already promised me that he will bring you over and assist you in every way possible. To induce him to do his best for you, I wrote him that you were my cousin, and for that reason Mr. Hammann mentioned in his letter to Mr. Pogemann: "I shall be glad to bring the cousin of your friend over, and I shall help him as much as can be done." This will eliminate many things which I had mentioned on the 10th of this month. You do not need to arrange for transportation now, but cash the draft as soon as possible, get your permit to emigrate, and see that you have all your equipment for the voyage; the most important matter is now that you and your baggage are in Bremen at the right time.

I have asked Mr. Hammann to write to you as soon as he arrived in Germany, and to tell you when he expects you in Bremen. Mr. Hammann will take this letter along, and I shall forward a duplicate via New York and Havre de Grace. I shall write you again when I get the draft, and, as I said before, I shall send the "original" draft via New York and Havre, and the "duplicate" via New York and Bremen. In case you get the letter which Mr. Hammann takes along without getting a personal letter from him, then write him immediately and ask him to tell you at what time he wishes you to be in Bremen. His address in Germany will be:

Herrn Christopher Hammann
p. Adr. Herrn Gerhard Kramer
Gastgeber
in Twistringen
Amt Ehrenburg
Königreich (Kingdom) Hannover.

Do not forget to mention your own address:

Julius Wüsthoff
p. Adr. Frau Wittwe Carl Wülfing née Henk
Lennep.

However, I do not doubt that Mr. Hammann will write you; I gave him your address as mentioned above. Ask Mr. Hammann where you can find him in Bremen, and in case you arrive first, it will be an easy matter to call on Mr. Hammann, since Twistringen is only eight hours from Bremen, and on the road to Osnabrück. Mr. Hammann will secure passage for you, and you can have full confidence in him. It is most important for you to be in Bremen on time with all your things. Try to be of help to Mr. Hammann as much as you can and listen to his advice.

I am highly pleased that we found such a wonderful opportunity, since a gentleman like Mr. Hammann, who has made the trip before, who speaks English fluently, and who, as they say, knows what's what, can help you more than a hundred others who do not know anything about such a trip themselves. Mr. Hammann will be kind enough to bring you to this country, even if you should be unfortunate enough to lose your money, or a part of it; in this case he will advance you the money, as he has a written assurance of Mr. Pauck and of Mr. Pogemann that I will gladly refund all his expenses. If it is God's will, this would not matter much; however, I advise you to use the utmost care. Mr. Pauck will give you all the

help you need in Cincinnati, and you will reach Louisville from there in ten hours. Mr. Pauck will also tell you our new street address, as I shall inform him as soon as I know it myself; it is likely that we shall move to No. 4 Wall Street.

Forget what I wrote about lodging quarters in Bremen, New York, Pittsburgh, etc., as you will be with Mr. Hammann. It will not matter if he travels via Baltimore or New York; you stay with him until you reach Cincinnati, even if he stops in expensive places, but I do not believe that he will do this. Be very friendly with Mr. Hammann and try to please him as much as you can. Be sure to take the letters of recommendation for Bremen and New York with you, as Mr. Hammann might get sick or die. If it should happen that he never reaches Europe, I have another good opportunity for you. A neighbor and friend of mine intends to take a trip to Bremen next summer, and will stay there about four weeks, and then he will return to Louisville, but I hope that Mr. Hammann with the aid of God will get there and will return safely with you.

You must be very careful about your eating and drinking in Bremen and Bremerhafen, so that you may start out in perfect condition; this will help you to overcome seasickness. Do not grieve too much about your departure, be courageous, and have confidence in our Lord. When you are over the troublesome voyage, you will be at home again, for we intend to treat you as our own child, and I promise you to be a good father to you. Do not lose your way in New York, and when you arrive in a lodging place, put down the name of the owner, the street, and the number of the house, and stay as much as possible with Mr. Hammann. If you desire to see the city, ask Mr. Hammann to take you with him, and if he is not disposed to do this, then give up the wish and stay at home. Between New York and Philadelphia you will pass a beautiful estate where a brother of the Great Napoleon lives now. If you see or hear something unusual, enter it in your diary, and you will enjoy reading it for many years to come. On the way from Philadelphia to Pittsburgh you will pass through a mountain, which is covered with tall trees; the canal will go right across a river, and you will see the river several hundred feet below; you will also notice a very long wooden bridge, which is more than a quarter-hour long.

Please write from Bremen or Bremerhafen if and when you met Mr. Hammann, what ship you intend to take, and to what harbor you will go, etc. Do not take any money in this country without asking Mr. Hammann if it is good; you let him handle all your

money, as he will not get cheated very easily. I cannot think of anything else I could write about; I feel fairly certain that I have not omitted anything of importance. My mother will give you a case containing pictures, etc. Please purchase for me one *Taler* worth of the finest writing paper you can get, one dozen long pipes for one and a half *Taler* or two *Taler*, one dozen assorted wooden spoons, and the best German-English and English-German dictionary you can get, provided however, that you have not one already. You had mentioned that you studied music; if it is a small instrument such as a flute, guitar, or something similar, bring a good instrument along, as they are very expensive in this country.

Do not forget your drawing material, and bring us letters and newspapers, etc. Consider the best way for you to travel to Bremen, ship your belongings early enough to a firm in Bremen, and ask them to hold them at your disposal. Mr. von Berg will give you the name of a firm. One thing more: Take a strong sack along to put all your soiled clothes in, which you use during the voyage; do not keep them with your clean things; be sure and bring everything along. That is all now.

Trust in God, dear Julius, and write us as soon as possible. In the meantime hearty greetings from all of us, particularly from your friend and cousin,

GUSTAVUS WULFING.

If you cannot buy fine writing paper in Lennep, Mr. von Berg will get it for you.

March 28, 1839.

Dearly beloved Mother and dear Julchen:

I have your kind letter of January 9 via Havre de Grace, but I have not received your letter of January 1 as yet. It was fine that you mailed this letter in duplicate, and I may get the other letter also. I am very much pleased that you wrote me about everything so explicitly, and I agree with your arrangements so completely that I have nothing to add; I can only confirm my previous offer. In regard to Julius you may assure his uncle and aunt that I will be a father to him. The boy will be treated as we treat our own children, and I shall take care of him as if he were my own son. I think this covers everything.

I had to laugh when I read your question: "Who will pay for his clothing, etc.?" Of course, I realize that only your warm interest

in the boy made you ask such a question. It is also understood that I will take care of his health. If I should die, Mr. Kayser will take care of Julius, and if he should die too, then Fritz will be here. I was glad to read your report about Julius. You wrote further: "What will Julius do later on?" If I were not convinced that only love for Julius made you ask this question, I could take this very amiss. You might just as well ask: "What do your children get later on, since they get only food, clothing, and an education now?" What can I answer? I don't know what they will get, but I know that they will get something, if I have something myself. In a word Julius will be a member of our family.

I answered your letter of October 27, 1838, as early as February 10, 1839; by the time you read this, you will have received my letter of February 10, no doubt. We should be highly pleased if Julius would bring the family portraits along. They must be in their frames, and a joiner will have to make a case which fits them perfectly. They must not be packed with hay or anything similar; the best way is to place rags between them, and the case must fit, so that the pictures cannot shift. Place the largest picture in the case first, the glass at the top, nail a rag covered border on the side walls of the case and fill the space with rags, then place the second picture on the border, and repeat this until all the pictures are packed. If a picture is smaller, the vacant space must be filled with rags, so that nothing can break. When everything is packed, the case should be nailed up, iron-banded, and marked with Julius' full name in large letters. The case must have two handles. I will gladly refund your expense and I thank you very much for your kindness.

My remarks about the sermon in the first volume did not refer to the entire book; on the contrary, we like this book very well, and we should like to have the other volumes too. We had a letter from Valdorf, which we answered. We wrote father that a young man from Lennep is coming here and that he may send his answer to you. Father wrote us free of abuse and insults, and that certainly meant something. I trust that all the other difficulties are a matter of the past.

I was in Cincinnati a short time ago. Pauck is getting along very well, his wife looks well, and you can see that she does not suffer want now. Carl lives from hand to mouth. He has a small store, lives poorly, and I can safely say that they have nothing; I thought they were in better circumstances. While I was there, an opportunity offered itself to be of great help to him, and he ap-

preciated it very much, since he and Fritz are not getting along so well. Fritz told him that laziness and not stupidity was the cause of his failure. I believe that inefficiency is the main cause, and when he sees that we are getting along all right, except for him, it takes all his courage. In short, I feel sorry for him, and anybody who could help him, and who does not do it, is in the wrong; if we had to earn help first before we get it, conditions would be very bad.

That is the way it goes in this world, if people make headway they attribute this to their own intelligence. I think so myself at times, but upon reflecting I feel that we poor human beings can succeed in nothing without the blessing of our Father in Heaven. You may rest assured that I like to help Carl; while I was there he earned so much that he said himself this was the best day he had had since coming to America. Only yesterday he made about five dollars with my assistance; I mention this so that you may see that Carl is not altogether without a friend.

In the month of February I sold goods amounting to \$162.18 $\frac{3}{4}$. I earned \$89.43 $\frac{3}{4}$, my living expenses were \$39.18 $\frac{3}{4}$ and my net earnings were \$50.25. It will be about the same this month; you can see that I earned enough in two months to cover the traveling expenses for Julius. I have written enough now and I shall omit everything else, even our children, since Christelchen has written too; I shall ask you to send me an answer as soon as you can. A copy of this letter will go forward via New York and Havre de Grace, and I shall write duplicate letters when I get the draft. I hope and wish that our Lord may aid and bless you and our dear relatives. Hearty greetings to all, and please write us to our old address as soon as you have received the draft. Special greetings to our dear Aunt Peter and her children, also to the Burchers, Roentgens, and all our friends and relatives who remember us in kindness.

Make the departure of Julius as easy and short as possible for him and for his Aunt Vollmer. There is no sense in wailing; it is better for Julius and for all concerned, and you can show true love for him by exercising a little self-control. I may add that Julius will need all his courage and strength for the trip, even though he has found a wonderful escort; therefore you must not discourage him, but encourage him as much as possible, and do not cause him to suffer unnecessary anguish.

Once more hearty greetings to Julius, his uncle, aunt, Friedrich, and all of you, from

Your loving son and brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Dearly beloved Mother and also dearly beloved Julchen:

As my beloved Gustavus wore himself out writing so much, and since his eyes hurt him from writing in a poor light, I am pleased to take the pen and tell you that we are feeling fine. Thank God, we are healthy. I never felt better and I take care of our household all by myself.

I cannot thank and praise our good Lord enough for His extreme kindness and love, which He showed us so visibly, in that He permitted me to get over my confinement without suffering any serious trouble. It grieves me immensely that I had to give up my baby; I most assuredly wished to keep the little child. We must submit to God's will even though we are unable to comprehend why He sends us such suffering, but we shall learn in the end that everything was for our best.

We believe that you are right and we thank you and our dear Aunt Peter Wulfing for calling our attention to the fact that I was working too hard, and that I should do no washing and scrubbing. If the case ever arises again we shall hire a maid earlier.

Our darling children are in school and they give us much joy. They wrote a little poem for Gustavus' birthday with the teacher's assistance. We include you very often in our conversations, and Mathilde and Carlchen remember very well their plump grandmother, and Aunt Julia, and the dear Aunt Christiane, who was sick and who is in heaven now. Oh, how often do we wish to be with you, and how much we could tell you about America. Who knows if it is God's will that we may visit you in Germany some day?

You can hardly imagine how elated we are when we get a letter from you. I thank you again for the many fine presents which Mr. Becker brought us. I wish you could have witnessed our happiness. Mathilde screamed with joy when she saw the doll and all the fine presents for her. She has a little bed with four dolls.

We thank our good Lord that you, dearest mother, are feeling so well, and we pray that He may keep you healthy for many years to come; and we wish the same from the bottom of our hearts for you, dear Julchen. You went through much trouble to give us such a surprise; how did you conceive the idea of the doll and the skein of yarn? To you, dear Aunt Peter, and to your children many thanks for your great kindness which you have shown us so often.

Please extend our heartiest greetings to them and also to our dear Aunt Gottfried Wulfing and her children and to the Vollmers. We are happy about Julius, and when he arrives in our home he will be treated as our own child. If only he were here already! Father

wrote a letter from Valdorf several weeks ago and August added a postscript; it was a very kind letter and it was particularly pleasing to me. I am glad that these silly strained relations seem to be a matter of the past.

Next Sunday is Easter, and we intend to take the Lord's Supper; may our good Lord continue to bless us. I have to finish now. Farewell to all of you. This is the wish of

Your loving daughter and sister,

CHRISTIANE WULFING.

LOUISVILLE, March 27, 1839.

Postscript by Mr. Wulfing:

It is best to pack the pictures so that they stand up, same way as if they were hanging, and Julius must mark the case:

"Glas, Oben!" and also: "This side up! Glass!"

There must be no holes in the case and the handles should be fastened accordingly; if there are holes in the case the moisture of the sea air might spoil the portraits.

Cancellation stamp reads:

Bielefeld, June 20.

LOUISVILLE, April 13, 1839.

Dear Julius:

I confirm my last letter of March 10/28th and I am sending enclosed the promised draft for 119 *Taler*, 3 *Groschen*, payable one day after sight in Bremen; I hope the draft reaches you safely. I mailed the original letter via New York and Havre de Grace, and the duplicate letter to Mr. Hammann, who intended to take it along. In the meantime Mr. Hammann has changed his mind, and a Mr. Wachmann, of Cincinnati, will take the trip in his place. He will forward the letter, together with several other letters of Mr. Pauck, to Bielefeld, and you will get the letter by mail from there. The difference is that you will get the letter from Mr. Wachmann via Bielefeld, and not from Mr. Hammann via Twistringen, and you will have to write to Mr. Wachmann now and ask him when and where to meet him in Bremen.

His address will be:

Herrn A. D. Wachmann
p. Adr. Herrn Daniel Meyer
in Cloppenburg
Herzogthum (Dukedom) Oldenburg.
Postpaid.

You will travel with him from Bremen to Cincinnati. Prepare everything, and be in Bremen on time. I don't know why the draft reads only 119 *Taler*, 3 *Groschen*, instead of the promised 125 *Taler*, but I have to accept it, or I will lose too much time, and the draft would reach you too late. They sent only an "Original" which was contrary to our agreement. I am mailing the "Original" to you via New York and Havre de Grace. Even though I have no "Duplicate," I will mail a copy of my letter via New York and Bremen as a matter of precaution, so that you may know what you have to do. Please acknowledge receipt of the draft as soon as you receive same. A few *Taler* more or less do not matter much.

Toward the middle of May my neighbor, Mr. Backhaus, of Louisville, will travel to Amsterdam, and I shall give him a letter for my mother. Mr. Backhaus will write you from Amsterdam as soon as he knows when he will return to America via Bremen. Since Mr. Backhaus intends to stay only four weeks in Europe, it is possible that he will return earlier than Mr. Wachmann; in that case I should prefer that you travel with Mr. Backhaus.

If Mr. Backhaus and Mr. Wachmann take the same ship, I think it is best that you go with Mr. Backhaus; firstly, because I know him personally, and secondly, because he returns to Louisville and not to Cincinnati. It does not matter much with whom you go, but I suggest that you travel with the one who leaves first. If the difference in time is only a few days, I should give preference to Mr. Backhaus, for I know him personally, and Mr. Wachmann is only recommended to me by Mr. Pauck.

Since all my other letters have arrived at their destination, I trust that the one with the draft will reach you safely too. I know of nothing else to write about. I hope you are courageous and I wish you a pleasant and happy trip; and may our good Lord protect you.

Hearty greetings,

G. WULFING.

Copy of the draft.

Exch. for Rds. 119. 3 ggr.

Baltimore, April 1, 1839.

L'd'or @ 5 Pc.

One day after sight of this first of Exchange,

—Second of the same amount and date unpaid—

Pay to John Bates Esq. or order

One Hundred Nineteen $3/72^1$ Rixdollars²

¹ Three ggr. were $3/24$ *Reichs-Taler* and not $3/72$.

² A *Reichs-Taler* consisted of 24 *konventions-Groschen*, which were called *gute Groschen* (ggr.). A Prussian *Taler* consisted of 30 *Silbergroschen* (sgr.). Both

in Louis d'or @ 5 Pc. Value received and charge the same as per or without advise from

Your most obedient servant,
C. A. HEINEKEN AND SCHUMACHER.

To Mess. BROTHERS KULENKAMPFF
BREMEN.

Pay to the order of G. WULFING
JOHN BATES, Cashier

LOUISVILLE, April 13, 1839.

Dearlly beloved Mother:

I take this occasion to tell you that we are well and happy. Since my last letter of March 10/28 nothing of importance has happened; however, we are very busy studying our plans for the future. We have several buildings in view, but we have made no decision so far, as no building satisfies us completely. The rent for an excellent store in a good location varies from \$500.00 to \$1100.00 per year. I cannot say much about the whole matter, except that I have a very good opinion of my partner Mr. Kayser, and I respect him more since I know him better. As far as I can judge, he is respectable, accurate, and honest, and a good merchant; may God give us His blessing.

Greetings from all of us to you—to Jettchen, Aunt Peter and her children in particular—and please write us as soon as you get this letter with the draft.

Many hearty greetings from

Your loving son,
GUSTAVUS.

Your letter of January 2 per Bremen prepaid sea-boundary has not come yet. It was fine that you wrote the letter twice. Mr. Wachmann left Cincinnati for Bremen via Baltimore on April 4. He took my letter of March 10/28 along, together with a letter from Pauck, and he will leave them with Mr. Bozi in Bielefeld. Pauck wrote Bozi to forward the letter to you.

April 19, 1839.

Mr. Kayser and I entered into partnership yesterday and we rented a store on Wall Street for \$400.00. We shall both go to Cin-

were subdivided into 12 *Pfennig* and *Neugroschen* subdivided into 10 *Pfennig*. In some German states the *Taler* subdivided into 28 *Groschen* and in other states into 42 *Groschen*. Some states had *Taler* and others had *Gulden* (*Florin*). Besides the above mentioned there were *Joachimstaler*, *Doppeltaler*, *Vereinstaler*, *Speziestaler*; also *Göldengroschen* and *Vereinsgroschen* and perhaps others. This mixup was finally regulated by law in 1874.

cinnati the day after tomorrow to buy goods. May God bless us in our new enterprise. My address is now:

Mr. G. Wulfing
c/o Messrs. G. Wulfing and Co.
No. 19 Wall Street
Louisville, Ky.
Nord-Amerika
Postpaid Havre de Grace.

Cancellation stamps read:

Louisville, Ky. April 20.
New York, April 27.
Le Havre, 8. Juin, 39. (June 8, 1839).
Paris, 9. Juin, 39. (June 9, 1839).

LOUISVILLE, KY., June 25, 1839.

Dearly beloved Mother and Sister:

Since writing my letter of February 10, when I wrote you that Julius should come and that I was going to send \$100.00 to cover the traveling expenses, I have received your letter of January, wherein you stated that Julius was willing to come. I answered your letter and wrote to you and to Julius on March 10/28, mainly to give Julius information in regard to the trip. I could not send the money with the letter, since the draft had to come from Baltimore, and I did not have the draft at that time. On April 13 I mailed the draft to you, and about ten days later I sent a copy of my letter without a "Duplicate" draft. I hope that you received all these letters and the draft, and that I may get an acknowledgment from you within a short time.

I placed an order today with Messrs. H. and D. von Berg and I will ask you to inquire from them when they will ship the order, and please give them a good sized package of news to be packed and shipped with the order. I trust that I may get a reply from you within six weeks, and I should be pleased to hear that Julius is actually on his way. Mr. Backhaus, of whom I wrote in my letters mentioned above, is still here; but Mr. Ernest Schürholz, a son of the innkeeper Schürholz, of Bünde, left for Germany, and he will probably return this fall. If Julius does not find an opportunity by the time you read this letter, then write to Schürholz in Bünde, inquire from him if his son has arrived there, if he intends to return to America, and ask him if he would take Julius along. Schürholz lived last in Vicksburg, in the State of Mississippi, and he left for

Germany via New Orleans; for this reason I could not have a talk with him. Since we know each other personally, you may refer to me and give my kindest regards; also tell him that I still live at No. 19 Wall Street in Louisville, and that Mr. Weyhe, the son of pastor Weyhe, of Bünde, is my next-door neighbor.

In my last letter to you I mentioned that Mr. Kayser and I had entered into partnership in April, but unfortunately we had to separate by the end of May. Mr. Kayser's brother died suddenly, and his mother could not do without him under these circumstances. This was very disagreeable for both of us, as we suited each other very well. It was more injurious to Mr. Kayser than it was for me, as I stayed in the business. Our short business relationship benefited me in so far that I have a larger business now, and I was afraid to enlarge it alone. The danger has passed now, as we have a good location and business is fine. I hired a boy for the time being, and I am very busy under these conditions; therefore, I should be highly pleased to hear that Julius is on his way.

I confirm everything that I said before, and I trust that I may get good news from you soon. We are getting along quite well; we are healthy and contented, business is good, and our children please us. Christiane is lively and happy, and when you see her, you would hardly believe that she had had five children. I am happy and pleased, we make plans quite frequently, and try to figure out the best way to arrange our trip to Germany. In all seriousness we intend to take this trip as soon as Carlchen is old enough to take care of my business. In case Julius should become my son-in-law, this intended trip might become a reality sooner; but I cannot contradict you when you tell Julchen that this is too far off. Cheer up, dear mother; if it's God's will, we may see each other again, and since we like to talk about such a glowing wish, we might just as well write about it.

Farewell, and please write soon. My dear Christelchen and the children send their heartiest greetings; and, while looking at Fritzchen just now, it struck me that you have only to look at the full moon, and you will have a pretty good picture of how the little fatty looks. Carlchen is slender and limber as a cane. The little ones mean everything to me, and may God bless them. Greetings to Aunt P. W., also to our dear aunts in Dohr, etc. And once more: Farewell! Farewell! Farewell!

Hearty greetings from all of us to you and special greetings from
Your loving son and brother,

GUSTAVUS.

August 2, 1839.

Dearly beloved Mother and Sister:

Your kind letter of June 3 reached me on July 27; I am pleased to see that the draft for Julius arrived safely, that Julius applied for his permit to emigrate, and that he has made all the preparations to leave as soon as he finds an opportunity. My neighbor, Mr. Backhaus, is still here; he made a loan and he cannot get his money back now. I hope you have received word from Mr. Wachmann by the time you read this letter, and I trust that Julius will come with him. If you have failed to hear from him, Julius should write and ask him when he intends to go back to America, and where he can meet him in Bremen, etc. His address is: Herrn A. D. Wachmann, p. Adr. Herrn Daniel Meyer, in Cloppenburg, Herzogthum Oldenburg, postpaid.

Mr. Hammann, of Cincinnati, has also left for Germany, and it might be well if Julius wrote him too and asked him the same question; and then join the one who leaves first. If there is another opportunity, Julius should not hesitate to take it. As I wrote you recently, I think it is better to travel with somebody who has made the trip before. I trust that Julius has not changed his mind; I am quite certain that he will be glad after a year or so that he came to this country, provided, however, that he reaches America safely, and that he remains in good health. I repeat what I said before, and that I will be a good father to him, and I have nothing to add, except that I wish to hear real soon that he has really left Germany.

Dear mother, you wrote that you received my letters of March 28 and of April 13. How about my letter of February 10 and the copy of my letter of March 10/28, which Mr. Wachmann took along? A letter written by Christy was enclosed and also a letter for Mr. D. von Berg, of Remscheid. I hope that the copy of my letter of April 13 reached you too. The letter which Wachmann took over went to Mr. Bosi in Bielefeld, who was asked by Mr. Pauck kindly to forward it to you. On June 25 I wrote Mr. von Berg, in Remscheid, giving him an order for hardware, and enclosed a letter for you. I believe that the last letter will be in your hands by the time you get this letter.

I have already written you that I had to take over our business as Mr. Kayser was compelled to return to his mother in Missouri, because his brother died suddenly. Karl wrote me also, and I received his letter on June 27 together with yours. Karl is getting along all right but he wants to come here, as he does not like it any longer in the country. My expenses amount to three dollars per day now,

but business is fair, and if it continues that way, and if I can sell the goods ordered from von Berg's with a fair profit, I cherish the pleasant hope of paying you a visit within a few years. But I shall have to wait until Julius is able to take care of my business. If my connections with von Berg prove to be a success, I may send Julius over as buyer later on until Carl shall be old enough to be of use in the business. All of this is very pleasing to read, but I believe myself that it is much too early; in spite of this, I am convinced that I shall visit you in a few years. With the aid of our Lord I am progressing all right, and even though the general conditions in this country are bad, I am making an average profit of 50 per cent. Notwithstanding my beginning in a small way I have made my first \$1000.00, and I have a good chance to make the next \$1000.00 somewhat faster. May our good Lord bless us and give us good health; and I sincerely trust that He will allow us to see you again. We enjoy talking about that, we have all our plans ready, and there is nothing missing to complete the trip, except—the money.

We are highly pleased to see that you have recovered from your severe cold, and we are just as pleased to be able to tell you that we are enjoying good health. Last evening I went swimming in the river with the three; Carl is learning to swim, he likes this very much, but our fatty does not. I took him in my arms and ducked him under the water; he liked it all right, but he lacked courage to do it alone. Carl is too heedless; dogs, horses, birds, etc.—they are his delight. He eats plenty, but his extraordinary liveliness prevents him from putting on flesh; he is a perfect model of a skeleton. If our little fatty had courage enough, I believe he could swim without any effort, as he is too fat to sink. Mathilde is going to be a pretty, strong, and tall girl; she is the very image of her mother, only she is somewhat stronger. She is learning well, but not as well as Carl, who excels her in everything, with the sole exception of singing. Mathilde sings well and she has a fine voice, but Carl does not like singing. For the time being the school is closed, and you cannot guess why—they are bankrupt, i. e. the school board cannot pay the rent. It would be a pity if the school could not be reinstated, and if we had to send them to an English school, but I hope that Julius may be able to teach them the German language on winter evenings, so that they can write to their grandmother.

Tilly is already a wonderful help to my darling Christelchen, and Carlchen is helping me to keep our store in good order; he already knows how to sell some small items. I could not help but laugh about your being frightened on account of the high rent of

\$400.00; in one or two years I hope to be in a position to rent a larger and better store, even if I have to pay as much as \$800.00 for rent. I have a fine store now and I have already been offered a profit of \$75.00, if I would give up the location now, but I rented the place for one year and I intend to stay. Business conditions are altogether different in this country, and if you don't know the conditions, you will not be able to understand these.

We know a family from Hamburg, with whom we associate, otherwise there are not many educated Germans here, but we notice this less than many other people as we live for each other, and we find our greatest joy in our children. We regret very much that we had to lose Mr. Kayser, as he was a fine companion. I did not suffer financial loss as I kept the business, but Mr. Kayser does not like it on the farm with his mother; I can see this in his letters. That is the way it goes in America—today you are a merchant, tomorrow a farmer, the next day a minister, and after you have tried several other things, then you choose what you like best. I for my part do not like to change much; I intend to stick to merchandising, and when I have \$15,000.00 I may return and live in Germany without a business. Nothing worth while has happened since I wrote you last. They hanged three murderers about six weeks ago, and I knew the worst one of the three well; he was a customer and he bought quite frequently.

My dear Christelchen is healthy and fine, and she thanks our good Lord that we are getting along so well, and that He gives us so much happiness. She is pleased about Julius too. In my letter, which you will get through Mr. von Berg, I wrote you that Mr. Schürholz, the son of the innkeeper Schürholz, of Bünde, took a trip to Germany, and that he may return to America. Induce Friedrich to write to him and ask if he will take Friedrich with him, etc. This too may be a very good opportunity for him. If everything else fails, then ask Cousin Holterhoff, in Altenberg. He may find an opportunity for him, or possibly our relatives in Osnabrück. Many people come to America from these sections of Germany.

See that Julius studies English and tell him to practice his music. We are highly pleased that Julius will bring the portraits along. Be sure and see to it that Julius does not overlook the dictionary. We have heard nothing from Löhne lately. I do not remember if I mentioned to you before that Carl's wife passed away. He and his child live now with Pauck. Carl will give up his store and he is selling out just now. He will visit us some time next week, and I shall be glad to help him as much as I can. Pauck's

baby son died too, and they are happy that they can take care of Carl's child; and this is a good thing for Carl and also for the child. Christiane offered also to take care of the youngster, but Carl makes a better living among the Germans of Cincinnati than he could here, since there are very few Germans in this city; and Carl prefers to stay in Cincinnati, and I think he is right. Pauck tried to induce Carl to return to Germany and to live with his mother and father-in-law. Carl asked me for advice, and I suggested that he stay here; he has not much in this country, but he will have less in Germany, and I would stay here if I were in his circumstances. I shall find out more about it when I see him next week, and whether he stays here or returns will depend on the answers from his father and father-in-law.

My darling wife is taking an afternoon nap and Fritzchen is assisting her. Tilly washed the dishes and she is sewing a dress for her doll; Carlchen is taking care of the store and I am starting to finish up, since there is not much space left. Fritz is getting along well, but he mingles too much with the Jews and I do not see him very often, particularly not since we live on a different street. Pauck is getting along well and he is making headway now. His wife is satisfied now, and you can see that she has more confidence in the future. We are getting along extra well owing to our happy family life and owing to the fact that our good Lord protects us, and also because we have confidence in our future.

Farewell now, and extend our greetings to our dear relatives. Do not hold Julius back, and write soon. If Julius cannot find the proper escort at the present time, do not allow him to drop the plan, but tell him to be ready to leave, for something may come up. Our good Lord be with all of you. Remember us and write soon, very soon to

Your loving son and brother,

GUSTAVUS.

My address is the same, but write
via Havre de Grace and not via Bremen.

Cancellation stamps read:

Louisville, Ky., August 3 (1839).

New York, August 13 (1839).

Le Havre, 12 Septembre, 1839.

Paris, 13 Septembre, 1839.

October, 1839.

"How shall I spend this afternoon, since you and the children are going out and I will be all by myself?" This is what I asked my

dear Christelchen just now, and she answered: "Take a trip to Germany in your thoughts, or start a letter to your dear mother; write her how often we think of her, tell her about our children, how we are getting along, and how much we should like to visit her, or something to that effect, and you will find that the time passes quickly, and when I come back, I shall enjoy reading your letter." Then she gave me a kiss, and the children kissed me too, and they left; I took paper, ink, and pen, and started to write this down.

I am in a strange but happy mood. Business is bad, as it always is at this time of the year; I believe that this is the reason why I am in such an odd state of mind. If business is good, I would like to see it better—to get rich quickly so that I can return to Germany. I think it has to be that way—I am dissatisfied and I wish to get more. Now, since business is bad, I think it all depends on the blessing of our good Lord, and without Him we can accomplish nothing. I should not be able to rise from this chair if it were against God's will. Oh God, what is mankind, that You have so much mercy on them! How happy I am when I realize that I have received everything I possess from our dear Father in Heaven. When I say that, I do not refer to worldly possessions—I thank God for these also, and I hope He will continue to bless me—but I thank Him with deepest gratitude that He gave me such a wonderful wife and such fine children! The tears in my eyes will tell Him more than I can express in words. I thank Him for my wife and children, and that He gave me a mind which is able to realize His extreme kindness. His name be praised in all eternity! Amen.

In her bridal days I asked Christelchen often: "Do you love me?" and she answered: "With all my heart." When I ask her now if she loves me, I can read her eyes that she is just as happy through my love as I am, being loved by her. She will sit in my lap, and she is so devoted and thankful toward our dear Lord, that the little ones ask: "Mother, dear mother, what is wrong, why do you cry?" "No, dear children, I am so happy that we love each other so much, I thank our good Lord in silence!" "Yes, we love you too, but we don't cry, we laugh when we are happy," said Mathilde. Oh happy childhood! Yes, children should be happy; we are glad too, but we show it in a different way. You wonder how we are? Well, we are pleased with each other and with our children. We are enjoying good health and we are contented. We cannot express our love in words and we enjoy our children.

I wrote this far about six weeks ago, when I was disturbed and I did not get to continue this letter until today, December 1, 1839.

Nothing of importance has happened in our family life since that time; however, we received a fairly nice letter from Valdorf, and a very nice letter from you, dated September 18, with an enclosure from Strohn; also a letter from von Berg. Please tell him that I received his letter of August 7 but no invoice, that the shipment has not left New Orleans yet, and that I am going to write him as soon as the goods arrive. Tell him also that Mr. Vorwerk, of New York, notified me that I would get von Berg's shipment via New Orleans.

I may write to Mr. Strohn and I may include a few lines for you. I know this Mr. Schacht personally but I have heard nothing from him; if he is in America, Strohn can collect nothing unless he has a note which is a written acknowledgment of his obligation to Strohn; without this there is nothing to be done in America.

I am happy to see from your letter of September 18 that Mr. Wachmann asked Julius to start on his trip; I trust that they actually left Bremerhafen about the middle of October. If this is the case, he may be on this side of the ocean by this time; and I expect to get a letter from him almost any day; or perhaps I shall get a letter from you. I intend to hold this letter until Julius gets here, so that I can notify you of his safe arrival.

Julius shall write to you himself within a week after he is here, and he shall tell you all about his adventures. May our good Lord permit him to arrive here happy and healthy. We are really pleased about it, and he too will be happy, as it is a sensation beyond description when you finally arrive at your destination after such a hazardous trip; and it will be so especially for Julius, who knows that he will be welcomed here with open arms. The weather is still favorable, and I hope that the river will not freeze before Julius arrives; otherwise this might cause a delay of about four weeks in Pittsburgh. Now let's hope for the best and pray for our Lord's blessing, and I trust that I can send this letter soon with good news. At all events we hope that Julius will celebrate Christmas with us. We talk about Julius and also about you every day; I make daily inquiries at the post office.

Pauck was here a few days ago; they are getting along well. Carl intends to get married again, and this may not be so far off. His married life was really a yoke and it may be the same again. He was contemplating returning to Germany with his child, but I advised him not to do it. Now August has written him too that he thinks it is better for Carl to stay in America, and I believe that he has decided to remain in this country. He is not very thrifty, but

earns here what he needs, and in Germany he would be a burden to his family. Fritz is fine. He is uncertain if he will take a trip to Germany next spring, but I believe it will be fall before he leaves.

I have already written you how we are feeling, but I am sure you will like to hear more about us. Julius can write you in detail about our home. I had a talk with one of the teachers, and I think that Julius should attend the evening school this winter, as it is most important for him to learn the English language properly. Our children do not speak German except when talking to their mother, as she does not understand English very well. Fritzchen laughs often about himself, for he always mixes a few English words in his conversation when he wants to speak German.

A few days ago all three had the wonderful news that they saw a boy who has six fingers on each hand. Mathilde thought our dear Lord made a mistake in counting, and Carlchen agreed with her and he added: You know, when you do everything in a hurry. The little fatty thought it was the latest style with the Negroes. In cases of that kind I think it is best to draw their attention to something else.

Children have strange ideas at times. Two of Mathilde's playmates have little baby brothers, and Mathilde said, "Girls are scarce, but boys are plentiful, for they grow wild, and everybody likes girls better." My darling Christelchen suffers frequently from headache and toothache; we believe this changeable weather is the main cause of this, otherwise we are happy and healthy. I am pleased with my business, but conditions in general are not so good in America.

A short time ago the children passed an examination in the church and Carlchen did so well that he attracted the attention of every listener. Mathilde did fairly well—she was a little bashful—and Fritzchen was all right in his own particular way. Carl was unusually bright and he made the best impression. He was the fourth in line, Fritzchen was the third from the end, and Mathilde was the fifth, right next to Carl. He surpassed boys who were two heads taller than he was by his brightness. I heard several people ask: "To whom does that boy belong?" and I cannot tell you how happy I felt inwardly. Our pastor is teaching the children now, he is not a wizard, but they learn German fairly well from him. I intend to send them to the English school later on. All three got letters of praise from their Sunday-school teacher. I hope that Julius will teach them German in the evenings. Through the grace of our Lord the children give us our greatest pleasure; however, there is some punishment necessary at times. Mathildchen never gets punished, Carlchen not very often, but Fritzchen frequently; he won't

mind and he is just as bad as Carlchen was formerly, but I think this will improve. Mother often says that Carl follows in my footsteps in all his actions, but I believe that Mathilde is just like her mother. We can't tell yet whom Fritzchen will resemble.

It is time for me to finish, at least for today; the others are in bed already. I hope that Julius will arrive soon and that I can give you good news about him. Farewell, and extend our greetings to our dear Aunt Peter, and to our cousins, and all the other relatives, also to the Vollmers and Friedrich Wüsthoff. You can figure on getting a letter from Julius within two weeks after you have received my letter. I shall forward this letter as soon as I can tell you that Julius has arrived here safely.

January 15, 1840.

Your kind letter of November 11 arrived on January 9, and we were greatly pleased to see that Julius left Bremen about November 9. We have heard nothing from him directly, but we expect to get news from him almost any day. It would have been better if Julius had joined Mr. Wachmann, as he would have been a good guide not only in New York but until they reached Cincinnati. The voyage across the ocean is by no means the hardest part of the trip, as there are no worries about eating, drinking, sleeping, and baggage while on the ship, but the trip in America is about 1000 miles, and it is not easy to provide for all these things without being robbed and cheated by bad people who take advantage of your helplessness. Let's hope that he has found good fellow travelers—and they are not hard to find, for many German emigrants go via the Ohio River to Missouri. We are hopeful and we trust that our good Lord will guide him.

We shall follow your advice in regard to the seven Napoleon d'or, clothing, shirts, etc., as much as possible, but not everything can be done according to your suggestions. They do not let gold lie idle in this country; therefore, Julius will have to invest his seven d'or in some way, either in a small store of his own, or in land, or in something else; at any rate his money must bring him some return after a year or so. I shall give him a regular allowance and I shall teach him to spend his money wisely, but I do not want him to use his own money for his needs or for amusement. You do not have to worry about his welfare after his safe arrival; if our good Lord protects Julius, he will get along in every way. It pleased us much to see how much the Vollmers did for the boy; they will get a wonder-

ful reward at some future time. With reference to your remarks in regard to attending church, sitting erect, taking cod-liver oil, and so forth, I can repeat only that I shall treat him as though he were my own child, and that we shall make no distinction between Julius and our own children; I hope that this will be sufficient.

I shall write to Mr. von Berg within a few days, and it may be that my letter to him will be mailed first. I have already had two invoices and also an invoice from Mr. Vorwerk of New York, but the goods have not arrived as yet, as the river is frozen. Your letter to August pleased us very much; we are reconciled, but our correspondence is not as pleasant and cordial as it should be. However, we are on fairly good terms and we shall do everything possible to preserve our good relations. I heard today that Mr. Gemeiner is an excellent gentleman, and I shall see to it that Julius writes him a letter of thanks. We are glad to hear that our dear Aunt P. W. is feeling better again; may our good Lord allow her to be with us for many years to come. If I knew the address of Mr. Becker, I would ask him if and when he intends to pass through Louisville, as I should like to give him letters, etc., for you. If you can find out his address, please give it to me in your next letter.

Last summer I forwarded newspapers to Mr. Peter Moll in Hamburg and I asked him to send these to you at his convenience. Did you get any? I was very much surprised to hear that Dr. H. had celebrated his silver wedding anniversary; this makes me realize that I am getting old. We appreciate all kinds of news very much, as it is most interesting. Do not mail the invoice for the pipes to me. Each separate sheet of paper doubles the fee, for example, three written pages like these will cost less than one page and a separate sheet, even if it is only three fingers in width; simply tell me the amount of the invoice. Times are bad in America at present, they have never been like this since 1776. My net earnings have not exceeded \$200.00 since May. Under these conditions I will have to postpone my intended trip to Germany, but these difficulties are not my only reason. Fritz will remain here one more year, as he has made nothing in these hard times. Conditions in this country are not the same as in Germany, where you have no chance whatsoever of improving yourself; it may be altogether different in a few weeks. Farewell now, hearty greetings to all the relatives and friends, Vollmers, etc. I am putting this letter aside and I am going to forward it as soon as Julius is here, and he shall write you within a week.

I am sending this letter by the "Great Western" or the "British Queen." These are steamers plying between New York and Liver-

pool, and ordinarily they make the voyage in fourteen days. I shall mark the date on the letter when I mail it, and you may tell me on what date you received the letter. Julius will write via Bremen and his letter may arrive about six weeks later. Letters which are mailed via England cost twice as much. Hearty greetings from my darling Christelchen and from the children; all are standing around me and all are looking at the letter for grandmother.

Farewell; write very soon and keep us in kind memory. I wish Julius were here so that I could mail the letter.

Your loving son,
GUSTAVUS.

Mr. Kayser is still with his mother. Did Aunt G. W. get any money from my father-in-law?

January 18, 1840.

I took a letter for Mr. von Berg to the post office today and they handed me your kind letter of December 3 with the enclosure for Julius. Each sheet of paper regardless of size costs twenty-five cents, about ten *Silbergroschen*, from New York or Baltimore to Louisville; each enclosure costs twenty-five cents extra. Two sheets of the size of my letter cost fifty cents, and one sheet the same size and a small slip of only one finger in width would cost fifty cents also. If I cut this sheet in half, each half would cost twenty-five cents, and if I take one sheet three times the size of my letter, it would cost only twenty-five cents; in short, each sheet costs twenty-five cents regardless of size. Please tell this to Mr. von Berg at your convenience. I had to pay fifty cents for your letter of December 3. I shall answer your letter later.

February 3, 1840.

I had a letter today from Julius, who wrote from Baltimore on January 17 and informed me of his safe arrival. He cannot come here because the canal is frozen. I shall answer him and send him this letter, with instructions to send it to you. The poor boy had a bad voyage, but he is healthy and I hope he is happy. I shall send him your letter too, and I am certain that he will be pleased about it. The ice broke today in the Ohio River, and we hope he will be here soon. There is no cause for worry, I shall send him more money and also a few letters of recommendation for Baltimore. Farewell;

and we shall write again when Julius is here. May our good Lord bless you and may He guide Julius safely to us.

Your
GUSTAVUS.

Dear Julius:

Write to Lennep, enclose this letter, and address your letter as follows:

Frau Wittwe Carl Wülfig, née Henk
Lennep
pres de Cologne
Europe
via Havre de Grace.

LOUISVILLE, KY., Mathilde's birthday, 1840.

Dearly beloved Mother and dear sister Julia Marie:

Julius wrote on the sixth of this month to his Uncle and Aunt Vollmer, and Christy and I added a few lines to his letter; we do not doubt that you read this letter. On the 21st I wrote to Mr. von Berg and asked him to notify you that Julius arrived here safely, that we were well, and that we intended to write you within a few days. Did you get the newspapers which were sent to Hamburg? I wrote you on January 15 that I would not mail my letter until I could tell you of Julius' safe arrival. On February 2 I had a letter from Julius from Baltimore wherein he asked me to send him some money. I sent him money and also my letter of January 15, which I trust you have received in the meantime. As you may have noticed, I started this letter last fall, and as we expected Julius here by Christmas, we held the letter. I do not intend to repeat what I wrote to our dear Aunt Peter, as it would be unnecessary. I am well pleased with Julius; it is a pity that he is so short-sighted and that he is so round shouldered. We feel as if he had been with us for quite some time.

Times are pretty bad at present and from all appearances they will stay so for some time to come. We are healthy and contented. Your description gave me an altogether wrong idea of Julius; I thought of him as being somewhat childish, timid, bashful, but up to now nothing has startled him. In the afternoon and sometimes in the morning about ten o'clock, he goes up-stairs and compares his watch with our clock, though he knows that his watch keeps better time than our clock; but Christy knows exactly what this

means and she gives him a sandwich. We laugh frequently about his Lennep expressions. Everybody takes him to be my cousin. His trip was very slow, and since he had to stay so long in Baltimore it was somewhat expensive; but everything turned out all right, and Julius is lively and healthy. In the evening, when the store is closed, we smoke together and talk about Germany.

Many thanks for the fine presents. We liked everything, but I like the family portraits best of all. Fritzchen got new shoes yesterday, and as soon as he had them in his little hand, he ran over to show them to his little friend Peter, as he was the one who should see them first. Christelchen and the children were highly pleased over the presents, and they wish to express their hearty thanks to you. I hear and see nothing from Sch.; the pretty boy wrote me about him too, and I shall answer today and enclose this letter. The dear Ambrose no doubt will rave about the high postage, but I won't hear him. Julius heard that young Mr. von Rechling had passed away. If you know something about it, please write me and tell me also if they intend to continue in business, etc. Thanks for the many news items you transmitted to us. When I write again Julius shall give you a description of our home and furnishings. I should like to have the address of Mr. Becker, in Missouri; in case he should take another trip to Germany, I should like to send some samples to Mr. von Berg. I know of nothing in particular to write about, as I wrote a lengthy letter to our dear aunt. Julius has written to Mr. Gemeiner, of Baltimore.

Since my letter of January 15 we have heard nothing from Valdorf, but we wrote them on February 3. Pauck, Carl, and Fritz are all right and they enjoy good health; the latter may have to postpone his intended trip to Germany on account of poor business conditions. The goods from von Berg's are partly good and partly bad. When I say bad I mean that the workmanship is all right, but the designs are not liked in this country; nevertheless I intend to keep up business connections with the von Bergs. I thank you for the fine patriotic songs, "To the King," and "My Fatherland." I may send you occasionally a few American patriotic songs, which sound somewhat different. The sense of the dignity of human nature and liberty is born and bred into the youngsters. As the children over there are taught from their earliest childhood: "Our most gracious King and Lord," etc., they are taught in this country that the first law of independence is the law of personal liberty, and that you shall have no other Lord but our Lord in heaven—but that is enough about this, as it is better to talk about such things than to write

about them. Greetings to the Vollmers and all other friends and relatives from all of us, and tell Burcher that I cannot write him just now, as I am too busy, but that I may write him next winter, and that I shall have a long talk with him if I ever get an opportunity to see him again.

April 1, 1840.

I wrote to Strohn today; it was a longer letter than I anticipated, and I asked him to let you read the letter, and I will ask you now to let him read some of the German language newspapers. The home-made cookies were a little stale, but this did not make much difference to the children—they ate them all. The other boy (Edward) leaves in the morning for his job. Did Aunt Gottfried get any more money from Bielefeld this spring? I suppose you were very much worried about Julius, as the voyage lasted so long. When did you get his first letter from Baltimore? I have a good deal of trouble with him, and I wish very much that the first half-year were over. After that time I have no doubt that things will be somewhat easier for him. He is willing but very awkward, and his short-sightedness and his carriage are a great handicap. He is a real genuine Lennep Philistine, slow and careful, but very good natured and willing. Carlchen is much faster and quicker, but Carlchen is unusually quick and intelligent. As far as I can judge Julius now, he will become a good merchant, but it will take time and trouble. His best qualities are his willingness and good nature, but he is not a magician. It is not an easy matter to educate Carlchen. He is learning well and when school is over he comes to the store to straighten out and to sell. Many a customer buys only on account of the boy, who is so friendly and eager, and who speaks such nice English. All our children speak English better than German. Mathildchen and Fritzchen give us joy also. I will finish now. Julius will write soon and he will draw a picture of our home.

Farewell, and our good Lord be with you! Please write soon, and with heartiest greetings from all of us,

I am
Your
GUSTAVUS.

Postscript

My dear Christelchen wishes me to send special greetings and to thank you once more for all the fine presents; she intends to write

you soon. They are really very busy just now, and she prefers to do her housework before writing letters.

Farewell, and remember us kindly. Also hearty greetings from Julius; he will write soon.

LOUISVILLE, KY., August 29, 1840.

Dearly beloved Mother and dear sister Julia Marie:

Your kind letter of June 26 arrived here on the 28th inst., and we were highly pleased to hear something from you loved ones. We had thought that your letter might have been lost, since so much time had passed since we had received a letter from you. We thank our good Lord that your letter contains pleasant news for the greater part. Up till now we have always had fairly good news, and quite frequently we remarked to ourselves that we hoped that it might stay that way, and that our Lord might keep your next letter from being rimmed with black. It just occurs to me to ask you to seal your letters with one single seal; it is unnecessary to use several seals, for they only cover up your writing, and they make it impossible at times to decipher the meaning. It is also of no use to try to conceal an enclosure in this way.

It is very annoying that Mr. von Berg did not get my letter of March 21, and Julius is making a copy of my letter of March 21 to Mr. von Berg from my copy-book, while I am writing this, so that I may send him the copy. I am very much pleased to see that Aunt Gottfried Wulfing got her money from Bielefeld. None of us has had any news from Valdorf for over half-a-year, and this is more surprising to me, as you say that Auntie got the money in April. The only way I can figure this out is that they must have sold the house and realized enough over 4000 *Taler* in gold that they could pay off Auntie in full. I should be pleased if you could find out more, and if you would write me about it; if a letter from Valdorf was lost, it may take a long time before they write again. Schürholz, of Bünde, arrived in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and we expect him here almost any day. It is possible that he may have letters from Valdorf.

The big fire of which you write was here all right, and it was in our neighborhood. We had packed all our goods, beds, etc., in cases, and we had started to move them when the fire department succeeded in getting the fire under control. We could unpack again, and we were fortunate that nothing was stolen or destroyed. I did not write about this on purpose, for I have no insurance. I tried

in every way to insure my home and my store, but I could find no company which would insure me under 5 per cent. We live in a frame house and fire insurance companies will only insure homes and stores in brick houses. Lindenheim and Schmieding are in the same situation, and this causes us much uneasiness, but it cannot be helped, and we have to hope for the best. As soon as we can find a brick building in a good location, we shall move and shall take out insurance at the rate of $1\frac{1}{4}$ or $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. We are very sorry that you were worrying so much about us, but who could foresee that you would read about this in your newspapers? The fire was described correctly, but in place of Pennsylvania they should have said Kentucky. There is no Louisville in the State of Pennsylvania; but in the United States are many cities with the same name, but they are located in different states. There are five cities with the name Washington, two Romes, two Cincinnati, etc. A Bremen paper stated that Louisville, Ky., burned down on both sides of the river; however, Louisville is located on one side of the river only. Eighteen or twenty houses burnt down and most of them are already rebuilt. L. & S. are five doors away from us in the same block. They never did live on Main Street; you looked this up incorrectly.

May our good Lord prevent it! but if I should ever have the great misfortune to be burned out, I should not go away, and if I should have only five dollars left, I should endeavor to support my family by starting a new business.

Times are miserably bad and we are just breaking even, but it will be better after the presidential election. I wrote more about this in my last letter to the Strohn's. In spite of the hard times I have enough money laid aside to pay for the goods which I bought from the von Berghs. I am waiting for an opportunity to get a draft on Hamburg when I shall pay them and also give them another order. With reference to your dream on the night of May 4/5, I remember nothing of importance that might have happened; in fact nothing worth writing about happened all summer, except that Fritzchen fell and hurt his cheek about three weeks ago, but this is all right except that it left a little scar. It is right in the center of the left cheek—in the face, of course—and if you should happen to meet him unexpectedly you will recognize the boy by the little scar.

Julius is not writing this time, as he is waiting for a letter from his uncle. The boy is willing, good natured, loyal, and faithful, also industrious, but very often inattentive and forgetful. What I teach him today is forgotten tomorrow. "I did not think of this" is his excuse every day, but I sincerely hope that he will begin to think

soon. He is lacking most in prudence and alertness, and his appearance speaks against him, as he creates an unfavorable impression. You wrote: "Julius contracted the habit of stooping," but I must say instead: "Julius is deformed"; and, even if ten doctors say that he will overcome this by bathing himself in oil every day, my own eyes convince me every day of the contrary, and it is a pity and very disagreeable to me, even if it is not his fault. Furthermore, his short-sightedness is a bad feature, and you wrote nothing about this at all. He has a very bad cold almost all the time, and I have to remind him frequently to blow his nose. For the second time he has a sore on his face, which disappears quickly by taking a purgative. I trust that none of these deficiencies is contagious. It is sad for Julius and very unpleasant for us that he has so much trouble with his body, and I am afraid that this will not improve but become worse as the years roll by. If I had known all this, I should never have induced him to come to this country.

You must not misunderstand me; I am more displeased with faults which he cannot improve than with faults which he can overcome by and by. He has good intentions, but I cannot give him what nature failed to give him. For instance, he has not much sense, or rather he lacks common sense. Careful thinking and the faculty of judgment are not given to him, he is too phlegmatic to become as good a merchant as I should like him to be. He could make his own living now if this were necessary, but nothing can be done in regard to his bodily deficiencies. He has not gone to the English school yet, as summer is not the right time for that; but I promised him that he should go next winter provided he is eager enough to do this and to make up by diligence for what nature failed to give him.

With reference to the good, pious king¹ I hardly think that he deserves the title *Der Gerechte*, "righteous before God." When he needed the sons of his country to protect his throne, he made all sorts of promises to them, and later on, after Napoleon was defeated, he failed to keep these promises. I believe in letting the dead rest in peace and not to pass judgment on things when it is not my place to do so. And for you, my beloved ones, it would be better if you would do the same as the teacher did, when he told his class: "Children, let's pass this up," for it was more than he understood himself.

Our children are not getting along so well with the German language. They can speak German and they can read it fairly well,

¹ Frederick William III of Prussia, who died in 1840.

but to write German, that is a hard nut to crack. They are going to the English school now and they will soon forget whatever little they knew about it, particularly since English pronunciation differs so much from the German. However, they will continue to speak German because their dear mother has a hard time with English and does not like it very much.

My dear Christelchen visited Cincinnati for several days, and during her stay she had four teeth replaced. She now looks like a young lady of eighteen years and seven months of May. She is happy and she takes care of the household with the exception of the washing, which is done every Tuesday by a washerwoman. We are very thankful to our dear Lord that we enjoy such wonderful health in spite of the intense heat and the heavy rains in the spring. Pauck and Carl are getting along all right. Carl wishes to get married again, but he has sense enough to listen to advice, and he has also learned to distinguish between good and bad advice. Pauck advised him to marry a young widow with a baby, and when he asked me about it, it so happened that I knew the person; when I told him the facts as they really were, Carl dropped his plan.

It is really gratifying to see that our dear relatives in Osnabrück, etc., are taking such a genuine interest in our welfare. I shall have an opportunity to inquire about Mr. Rammer today, and I shall tell you about it before I finish the letter. I am going to write to Mr. Becker in Missouri tomorrow. In case you should hear more about Mr. Recklinhausen, please write me about it, though it is pretty long ago that I was with him; I am still interested in hearing from them, and I feel deeply sorry for them, because they have lost their son. I heard today that the merchant Tonsen in Solingen failed. Is this correct? Please continue to give us all the news you can, as we like to hear as much as possible about our dear Germany. I want Julius to start his letter soon and to give you and his uncle and aunt a complete report about our life, ways and doings, and our home, etc. as I shall have to pass this up this time.

Fritz took a trip to St. Louis and vicinity three weeks ago, and he may return in about a week. Please tell Mr. von Berg, in Remscheid, that I wrote him a letter on March 21, that I sent this letter to Mr. C. W. Vorwerk, Pearl Street, New York, to be forwarded to him, that a friend will take a copy of my letter of March 21 to Philadelphia next Thursday, and that I shall write him more completely within a short time. Furthermore, tell him that I have the money ready for him and that I am waiting for an opportunity to send to New Orleans to get a draft on Hamburg, that navigation with New Orleans is in-

interrupted on account of low water, and that it is too risky to send money by overland mail. As soon as a friend leaves for New Orleans, I shall send the money to Messrs. Smidt, Werner & Co., in New Orleans, with instructions to get a draft on Hamburg in favor of Messrs. H. & D. von Berg, in Remscheid; I shall send them an order also.

After you have seen Aunt Gottfried, please write me exactly how I stand with her, how she arrives at her figures, and how much I still owe her. I should like to see this old matter settled. Greetings from all of us, especially from Christiane and Julius.

Please write us soon. I shall add to this letter tomorrow whatever I can find out about Mr. Rammer. Farewell! May God be with you!

Your loving
GUSTAVUS.

Dear Mother:

What I am writing about Mr. Rammer you may cut off and send to Cousin Ludwig with my best regards to him and the other members of his family in O.

Dear Aunt Wülfing and Julchen:

I wish to add a few lines. I was very sorry to hear that you, dear aunt, were so sick; however I am glad that you are well again. You hardly wrote anything about Uncle and Aunt Vollmer and about my brother Friedrich, but I hope to get a letter soon. Please give my greetings to them. I am getting along all right, and I am learning the business fast. The death of Mr. Tweer grieved me very much, and Fred will miss him too; he was a good teacher and an excellent adviser. May our good Lord reward his wife. You wrote me about boys I hardly know, but you wrote nothing about my friends with whom I spent almost all my time: A Treuburg, P. Hollweg, and A. Hachenberg. How are they and what are they doing?

How is Fr. getting along at Rektor Langenbach's? What did the boys say when I left so suddenly? Do they take a little more interest in Friedr.? Extend my greetings to Uncle Ferdinand and his family. Is Aunt Vollmer feeling better now, and does she visit you more regularly? Please give them my greetings and also Friedrich, and tell them that I am fine and that I shall write them more fully later. I am waiting to hear from them.

I made use of the letter of recommendation in Baltimore, but it

did not help me much. I went to see Mr. Gemeiner before I left; I may write him again, since he asked me to do so. I follow your advice and I read the Bible every evening before retiring, at least one psalm. I keep my certificate of confirmation in my trunk and I look at it quite frequently. Once more many greetings to all of you and the P. Wülfings, both Garshagens, and all my friends. My letter of February 18 was very slow reaching you, as the ship arrived in Bremen late in March and left Bremen again early in April; I read this in a Bremen newspaper.

Once again greetings to all of you.

Your
JULIUS.

Cancellation stamp reads:

Louisville, Ky.

Aug. 30 (1840).

LOUISVILLE, KY., October 29, 1840.

Dearly beloved Mother and Sister:

Your kind letter of June 26 arrived here August 27, and I answered it on August 29 via New York and Havre. I feel confident that you have received my answer by this time. Julius had a letter from his Uncle Vollmer and he answered him on October 10. We trust that you may have read this letter when today's letter reaches you. Your letter of September 1, which you mailed to me through Mr. von Berg, came into my hands on October 20 and I hasten to answer it.

We have heard nothing from Valdorf, neither has Fritz, but Carl had a letter from Father, wherein he mentions that he sold the house in Bielefeld for 4500 *Taler* in gold (Louis d'or @ 5 *Taler*), that Father paid all my obligations to Aunt Gottfried W. and that he had 100 *Taler* left over, after paying all the expenses involved in the transaction, which he intended to keep, and which his children will have to settle after his departure. We shall see about that later on. This was exceptionally pleasing and most unexpected news for us, and we should have been satisfied, if he had sold for 4000 *Taler*, so that nobody suffered a loss, inasmuch as the lease had expired. Thank God that this matter is settled and that our dear aunt got her capital back. Please give me the exact statement in your next letter and show me how the settlement was made. Copy everything on one sheet of paper and hold all papers, proofs, vouchers, etc., in a safe place, so that I can refer to them if this should

become necessary. Since everything has gone well and altogether contrary to all expectations, I may ask you to send the 30 *Taler* which were given to me by our late Aunt Gottfried to Mr. von Berg, in Remscheid, as a part payment!

Last Sunday a certain pastor Rieger paid us a visit with his young wife, née Schemelmann, of Beeke, near Löhne. Julius made their acquaintance in Bremen. They had neither letters nor greetings for any of us, not even Fritz. They saw Father, Mother Schrader, and August two days before they left, and they had mentioned to them that they were traveling through Cincinnati and Louisville to St. Louis. Both were wondering why they were given no letters or greetings, but they of course said nothing and they asked no questions. Pauck and Carl had no letters either through this opportunity. The letter to Carl from his father was brought to him by a sister of his late wife, who came to this country. Schürholz, of Bünde, was here too and he had no letters for any of us, also a young man from Bielefeld, who arrived here this week, had no letters. We cannot understand this, as the sale of the house should have been reason enough to write.

Fritz had written a long letter about his trip to Missouri, but he burned the letter up and merely stated this fact to his father; and in place of a long letter, he simply notified him of his engagement. I wonder what kind of an answer he will get. Please cut off the other half of this letter and forward it to Messrs. H. & D. von Berg in Remscheid. We are sorry that our dear aunt has passed away, and we regret that the matter with Dorf Müller is not yet settled. This matter is so old that if it could have been settled long ago it would have been a great relief not only for our late aunt, but also for those who are left behind. We hope for the best; however, I fear Dorf Müller's low principles and his craving for revenge.

Tell the Vollmers not to worry if Julius does not write as often as they want him to write. You know I send letters from time to time, and if I do not say that Julius is sick, they can take it for granted that he is all right.

I never did worry very much about this obligation, and now everything is paid without worry and I get a present of thirty *Taler* besides. These, however, worry me now because I do not exactly know what to do with them. However, I shall ask Christelchen, and let her do the worrying. Christiane tells me to give the thirty *Taler* to you, dear mother, and since this is her suggestion, I hereby present the money to you, but my stinginess does not permit me to give it outright; and so I have to add a few businesslike remarks, viz.

please accept the money as a token of our appreciation for the fine spoons, pipes, etc., which you sent us; and I reserve the privilege of asking you to send us a few more things, if we should happen to need any, without having to pay for them. It may be a long time before I ask you for such a favor, as we can get everything through the von Bergs. Please spend the money as you prefer and thank our cousins in my name, and then forget about the matter.

I wish to tell you that we are getting along well; this includes Julius, Carl, Pauck, and Fritz. The latter is engaged to Miss Louise Kayser, the sister of my former partner, and they may get married this fall. He gave up his intention of going to Germany. Christy asks you to forgive her for not writing. She does not like to write letters and she is very busy; nevertheless she loves you very much and thinks of you practically all the time. The children and Julius send their heartiest greetings to all of you, including the Vollmers and Friedrich, and we appreciate a letter from you very much. I may write to Cousin Ludwig Springmann within a short time and may start business connections with him.

We do not know Miss Kayser as yet, but we know that she comes from an excellent family, that she is eighteen years old, healthy, and tall. Christy is very much pleased that they will live here, and she hopes that she will be a dear friend.

Greetings and kisses from your

GUSTAVUS.

LOUISVILLE, KY., March 21, 1841.

Dear Aunt Wülfing and Julchen:

Your kind letter of January 3 and 21 arrived here on March 21, and as it is Sunday and I have the afternoon to myself, I shall write you the long promised letter. Please tell Uncle and Aunt Vollmer that I answered their letter of October 11 on December 12, and the letter of December 6 on February 6, and that I am waiting for an answer now. In my letter of February 6 I added a few lines for you, which I hope you have received. Please do not feel hurt that I did not write to you direct, but I meant no harm; I thought that you would read my letters, and that it was all the same whether I wrote to Uncle or to you. I trust you do not think it was laziness on my part, but I feel that you know better. To make up for this neglect I shall write to you this time. I am getting along well, I am improving in business, and I hope that Uncle is satisfied with me. On March 3 it was exactly one year since I arrived here. Time passes so quickly,

and it is hard to believe that I have been away from home one and one-half years. I hope to see you again in a few years; our good Lord knows best, and if He ordains otherwise, He has His good reasons for it. We trust and live in hope, and this keeps our spirits up, so that we do not give way to tears and grief. Will you please comfort my dear Aunt Vollmer, as our good Lord had certainly a kind purpose in sending me to America.

What could I have accomplished in Germany? To be a school teacher, to squabble with children, to try to teach them with a rod, if they do not wish to learn in any other way—no, your most obedient servant declines this honor with thanks, and Sirach stated that aggravation and anger shorten our life. To go to an office, to write from morning till evening, and, when the years of apprenticeship are over, to be a clerk all my life because I have no capital to start a business of my own—no, much obliged, this too I decline with thanks.

I prefer America, where I can start more with a small capital than you can do in Germany with ten times as much. I hope you do not take this ill, but it is true just the same. I am glad to see that Friedrich has been accepted by a big firm, I hope he will learn the business right, and that our good Lord may lead him. It is not necessary to tell him my remarks as he might misunderstand them, and I do not wish to be the cause of his feeling dissatisfied, as it is possible that he may be really successful. May our good Lord guide him wisely. It is true that I wish many a time to be in Lennep, as here everything is so stiff, and there are no fine parks or walks, etc. America is still in its childhood compared to Europe. I do not associate with anyone, I do not seek the friendship of American boys as they are too rude, I know a few boys who work in other stores, but I do not go out with them. We have a boy in our other store who can speak a little German, and I go out with him on Sunday afternoons, as there is no church in the afternoon. He is a nice boy, but he does not speak German very well and we talk English together. I also use English when talking to the children and speak German only with Uncle and Aunt. The Germans are looked down upon with contempt, and the Americans call them "the Dutch," which is the correct English word for *Hollander*.

People have very poor manners here, I might say no manners at all, and temptation is great, therefore, please pray for me so that I may say with Joseph in the hour of temptation: "Why should I commit such a great sin and disobey God's commandment?" Pray for me that our good Lord may bless me during this Lent. I do not know

whether I shall take the Lord's Supper on Easter, which is in three weeks; I may wait until Pentecost. Pray the Lord to give me a blessed holiday, and I hope you may have a blessed Good-Friday procession; may God be with us in His great love, and may He be near us and in our hearts on resurrection day.

I have been going to the German church since I came here, but I may go to an English church soon. Our Evangelical German church has no steeple, as in Germany; it is a plain building without organ and bells, and their school is not good; the children go to an English school. It is getting dark, and I hope to finish this letter next Sunday.

April 3, 1841.

Upon reading my letter over I see that I promised to finish it last week; however I did not get to it, and I trust you will forgive me. I may be able to finish the letter this afternoon and to mail it tomorrow. Nothing has happened in the past two weeks that I could write about. We have spring weather already, the trees are budding and blooming, and I have discarded my vest. In general it is warmer here in spring time than in Germany; however, we have severe winters. The Ohio was frozen for three days last winter; the water is rising now, and we hope that this will improve business conditions. Last week twenty-one steamboats stopped here in one day. They have about 250 boats on the Ohio River, and not a day passes but at least one boat arrives or leaves here.

The children were confirmed today, but I could not go, as Auntie went to church today. Friedrich will be taken into the visible church on earth soon, and please pray for him that our good Lord and Heavenly Father may accept him as a member in His invisible congregation also. Pray for me too that He may receive me, and that He may strengthen my belief in Him as the only Savior and King, that I may adhere to my faith in Him; for believe me, I need your mediation and your prayer, as we live in a bad and wicked world. Yes, I know this, and yet I cannot, rather, I will not tear myself away from the deception of my heart and obduracy and turn to Him, for our Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ makes advances to me daily, nay hourly, and entices and invites me to tear myself away from sin and to follow Him. Who can tell how long His forbearance and patience with me will last, perhaps He has turned away already; but no, no, He cannot, He will not thrust an erring sheep from Him. Oh God, help me and save me from the darkness which obscures me, save me from the grasp and the clutches of death which surround me.

Oh dear God, abide with me, and save me from the concealed darts of Satan, and from the waters which drown my soul. Oh, my dears, please pray for me that our Lord may kindle the spark in me to a blazing flame, and that my faith may not fail me. Please teach my brother so that he may realize the importance of his confirmation, and that he may adhere in meekness and simplicity to his confession. It is not easy to do this in our present age, but there is no comparison with the endurance and sufferings which the early Christians had to face, which brought martyrdom and a painful death to many. Even if we have to suffer now, what does it signify compared to the promise which Christ gave us if we cling to our faith?

Tell Friedrich that I give him a confirmation gift in the words of the apostle Paul to his beloved: 1st Timothy 2:7-15; 4:7-16; 2nd Timothy 2:1-14; Romans 12:1; Peter 5:5-12; Hebrews 13. Lend him your aid if he makes a false step, and guide him back to our Lord, who has promised to be a father to orphans. Give my greetings to Uncle and Aunt Vollmer and comfort Auntie, but I trust that she is consoled by this time. Are they feeling all right? Why don't they write? It will be two months next week since I had their last letter. Please write us soon, as we enjoy getting a letter from you.

I like to hear about my schoolmates. Do Mörsers and Arsayers take an interest in Friedrich, and do they know that I am in America? How are Messrs. Wiesmann and Hülsmann? How is Rektor Langenbach? Is Friedrich still studying Italian or did he give it up? Does he study English? I think it would be better if he should study English and French; however, if he prefers Italian, let him study it. Here in America you are not bothered with languages—to speak English correctly, that is all that is expected. There is quite a difference in views of life between the two countries. Which is better? I have to stop again as it is getting too dark.

My letter is somewhat criss-cross and a medley of everything, but I hope to do better next time. It is Sunday again and today is Holy Easter. Oh, how different it is in Germany! Americans do not celebrate Good Friday and they hardly know that it is Easter. Easter Monday is no holiday at all. All stores are open on Good Friday, but the German church had a sermon, and there will be a church service tomorrow. I send you my best wishes for Easter, and I sincerely hope that you were blessed and joyous in your heart. I also send my best wishes to my uncle and dear aunt and to my dear Friedrich. Today the newly confirmed had their first Lord's Supper; I shall go to the Lord's Supper on Whitsunday, if God will permit me to do so. Please pray for me that our Lord may strengthen my belief in Him.

On April 4 the President of the United States of North America, General William Henry Harrison, passed away after being President exactly one month, and his successor is our Vice-President, John Tyler. The newspaper requested that all stores be closed, but only the most ardent followers of his party closed up. All steamboats flew their flags at half-mast as a sign of mourning. We hope that the new president will bring us better times.

Last Friday, that is on Good Friday, they hanged a fellow who was accused of having murdered two men who peddled food in a small boat. He stated that he never murdered these two men, but they found their money and a book in his pocket. He was tried and found guilty. In a letter to his father he wrote:

I am innocent, two other men were in the same boat, a pilot and his assistant. They left in the afternoon on the Indiana side of the river under the pretext of buying clothing and brandy, but they returned in the evening to the boat on the Kentucky side of the Ohio. Both owners went to sleep and I went to the boat to see what they bought, but I could find nothing. When I turned around I saw these two fellows hit the owners of the boat on their heads with a hatchet, and when they noticed that I witnessed their deed, they wanted to murder me too, but I begged them for my life and they let me go. If they would permit me to do so, I would find the two murderers within two days.

This he wrote in the letter to his father. He did not want a minister to see him and he cursed everybody. He reasoned: If they break my neck how can I walk around in the other world; it is all the same to me, if I go to heaven or hell. He did not want to find consolation in the Bible. He was hanged at six o'clock in the morning. I did not go to see him.

May our good Lord be kind to us and may He forgive us our sins.

I will finish now. Hearty greetings to all my friends and school-mates, particularly to P. Wülfings and Gashagens, Aunt and Uncle Vollmer and Friedrich and to you,

from your devoted,

JULIUS WÜSTHOFF.

I hope to hear very soon from you as I have been waiting for a long time for a letter either from you or Uncle.

Your JULIUS.

LOUISVILLE, KY., February 6, 1841.

Dearly beloved Mother and dear sister Julia:

Your kind letter of November 11 arrived here on January 5, and I had at the same time a letter, also dated November 11, from Mr. von

Berg, which I answered on January 12. I hope that Mr. von Berg received my letter of January 12. Since there was nothing of importance in this letter I did not mail it in duplicate. I hear from Julius that you received my letter of October 29. Julius wrote his Uncle Vollmer on October 10 and he had a letter from his uncle, wherein he informed him that Friedrich will enter the firm of J. D. O. as an apprentice. Julius was really pleased to hear about this, and he may include a little letter with mine.

I sent all over town today to get good ink, but I could not get any; therefore I ask the "pretty boy" to give me the formula which my late father gave him; but I will ask you to write it in your letter and to copy it exactly, and do not inclose a separate piece of paper, as this would cost me twenty-five cents extra. If the "pretty boy" cannot find the formula, tell him it is entered in the little notebook of 1830 in which we kept a record of goods loaned out. With reference to the capital of Aunt I can only say that I do not need the records here, but I may need them in Germany later on when it comes to a final settlement with the other heirs of my father-in-law.

We have had no news from Valdorf for a long time; they did not write about the sale of the house or anything else. Carl, Fritz, and Pauck are very much displeased too with the Valdorf correspondence, and we shall not write again unless we get an answer to our previous letters. I do not understand what this means; everything appeared to be all right, we had a sensible letter which pleased us very much, we have written twice since, and we have heard from others that our letters arrived. Schurholz, of Bünde, did not have even greetings, much less a letter for any of us. In short, we have no explanation for this attitude, and we know of nothing else to do but to keep silent and wait patiently until we hear from them. Possibly they will write again to their brothers and sisters when Father passes away, and for this reason I ask you to keep all the records in a safe place.

Fritz has been waiting for a letter as long as we have, but Carl has had a letter, and Father wrote him that he had sold the house for 4500 *Taler* in gold and he should tell Fritz about it. Father wrote further that the 50 *Taler*, which he gave him when he burnt out, were not a present, but they were charged against him. This causes Carl not to write any more either. We feel that the Winters are the cause of this attitude toward all of us. I myself do not care about the whole family, as I have had nothing but aggravation from them, and I am glad not to have dealings with any of them. Carl has

married again and he will be satisfied when he gets what is rightfully coming to him later on. Fritz has made this country his home too, and he has given up the idea of returning to Germany. We regard all of them¹ as extinct, and it is very seldom that any one of us refers to them. We do not feel right about the whole matter, and time will tell what will come of it.

Carl's father-in-law (father of his first wife) has disinherited him, or rather Carl's child, but I doubt that there was much to be inherited. We suggested to Carl to write to Germany and to find out if there was anything to be inherited; if so, to inquire whether he has a right to disinherit his child without any reason whatsoever. Carl was here last week. He is getting along well and he is worth now about \$1200.00, not considering what is coming to him from Germany. He seems to be quite happy and we wish him the best of luck.

Fritz has been married two months and he has a fine wife, but she is very young and inexperienced. They are really happy, and I have no doubt that their happiness will last, provided however that Fritz does not spoil her too much by giving her more conveniences than he can afford to give her later on. I am afraid that he is overdoing it and that he will be somewhat henpecked in about a year from now. Perhaps it is well if it turns out that way. We live in harmony and we call on each other several times a week. The Paucks seem to get along all right, but they make no headway; I doubt if he is worth as much as \$400.00. We are getting along very well indeed but we are making only slow headway at the present time.

I have two stores now. The old store is managed by Mr. Noltenius, of Bremen, and by Julius. Mr. N. is a friend of Mr. Albert Hardt. I am in the new store with a young man. In my new store I have added clothing, but as I started this only last week, I cannot say much about it; however, I have good reason to believe that it will turn out all right. By the way, times are still bad and we have to be satisfied if we break even. We are enjoying good health, we are contented, and I am fairly pleased with Julius. As I wrote you before, I am more dissatisfied with his bodily afflictions than with faults which he may overcome gradually. He is willing and he takes a greater interest in his work, but he lacks too much in appearance. He is a little forward and not as courteous as he should be with customers, and his harsh pronunciation creates an unfavorable im-

¹ Apparently Fritz's family in Germany.

pression. His face is swollen almost all the time and he is deformed. I wrote all this before, but I cannot write anything different now; he has passed the worst stage and I hope that he will improve. The doctor advises me that he cannot be cured unless he goes through an expensive medical treatment of long duration and takes a sulphur bath every day; with reference to his back he states that only wearing an iron jacket for many years might help.

I left him with Noltenius in the other store because N. knows nothing about the business, and Julius is sufficiently familiar to take care of the store until N. is better posted. Noltenius is a respectable gentleman, and I have engaged his services for half-a-year. Julius destroyed my faith in him completely last summer; however, he confessed and I believe that he has repented; I forgave him and the matter is settled. His unfavorable appearance will be an impediment all his life, but since he is willing and faithful, I shall have to overlook this inasmuch as it cannot be changed.

I intended to write to Ludwig Springmann and to start business connections with him; but I shall have to postpone this for the time being as I am too busy with the two stores and other business deals, and I may need my small capital. My expenses amount to about \$1500.00 per annum, and I shall have to earn at least \$1550.00 before I begin to make a profit. This means I shall have to be very careful that the cart doesn't get too deep in the mud and get stuck.

I have had my second store since November 10 and I feel certain that this store will not be a failure, and since I like to work from early in the morning till late in the evening, I am really very happy and I hope that it will not be too much for me. With the aid of our Lord I hope to clear this year \$500.00 over my expenses.

I am highly pleased to hear that the von Bergs were so kind to you. They are excellent and reputable merchants who wish to ship only the very best to me.

My dear Christelchen is sending her heartiest greetings to you; she is in the best of health and she is happy that she has such a charming, dear, faithful, pleasant, entertaining, lively, merry, amusing, cheerful, and close confidante and friend in her new sister-in-law née Kayser.

Mathilde is taking guitar lessons. Carlchen is learning well, and if I did not think that he would become an excellent merchant, I should let him study. Our children are our greatest treasure. I wrote to Mr. D. von Berg a very long personal letter and he will no doubt tell you about it. We are very sorry that you, dear Mother, suffer so much from rheumatism, and we hope with all our heart

that you are feeling better now. May our good Lord keep both of you and also all of us in the best of health. I shall visit you when Carlchen is old enough to take care of my business. I shall not write that I am coming, but I shall show up unexpectedly and tell you that I am very poor, and if you welcome me heartily in spite of this, I shall put at least 20,000 *Taler* on your table. Winter wrote us a few years ago that mother Schrader inherited 2000 *Taler*. The wife of pastor Riegers told us, however, that she inherited nothing at all. We have a church social this evening and I have to shave, so I shall stop now. Well then until tomorrow—

February 7.

Though it is somewhat late, I wish a Happy New Year to all of you and send hearty greetings particularly to Aunt Peter and her daughter. Please write us something about your new king. Is he for peace or war? Did he free all the demagogues? Do many people emigrate? Does Wm. Lehmann intend to return? How is Peter Holterhoff getting along in Buenos Aires? How is Aug. Bornefeld? Please tell us all about Valdorf and Bünde. Christy feels very sorry that they are so unfair to us. I know of nothing else to write about. General Harrison was elected to be our next President; he is a staunch Whig, very aged, and unable to fill the office; but that will make little difference if we have better times so that people may earn something.

Our German school is extremely poor and the children go to the English school now. They learn to speak German all right, but not to write it. Mathilde and Carl can read German fairly well, but not Fritzchen. All three speak English well and Carl is very eager to learn. Mathilde helps do house work as soon as she comes home from school and she likes to study music. Farewell now; write us soon and keep us in kind memory. Hearty greetings from all of us, especially from

Your loving son and brother

GUSTAVUS.

Cancellation stamp reads:
Bremen March 31 (1841)

February 17, 1841.

Today on my thirty-ninth birthday I indulged in earnest reflection upon myself, my past life, my ways and doings, my circumstances, and my past experiences, and it became evident to me that all human endeavors are vain and foolish unless they take into con-

sideration our life after death, and unless they are sanctioned by our Lord. What good is all our excessive effort to gain possessions which are eaten away by moths and rust? All our exertions are vain-glorious if our Lord and Savior does not give us His blessing; if you achieve something it is often dangerous, for greediness and avarice may follow, and we are inclined to become careless; our foolish heart is easily led by our mind to consider our actions just and right, when, strictly speaking, they are not. What does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?

It is true it is the duty of a man, particularly the head of a family, to follow his vocation, to work with all his ability, and to exercise all available fair means in order to accomplish something; but it is also his right to enjoy his honestly gained wealth. We should not feel too much anxiety about the future, and we should not worry about tomorrow excessively; it is sufficient that each day will bring its own troubles. We should count on the aid of our Lord, but we should not misconstrue the meaning of the word aid. There are people who believe that our good Lord's omnipotence and blessing should allow them to harvest potatoes without planting them first, but the sensible man will plant them at the right time and he will pray for God's blessing; for we are taught to pray and labor, and neither will be sufficient in itself alone.

With reference to myself I do not have to remind myself on this important day to work more, or to provide better for my wife and children; but an inner voice tells me to pray more, not to have too much self-confidence, and to keep in mind always that without God's blessing I shall accomplish nothing. Independence, will power, courage, perseverance, strength, and self-knowledge, when used in the right way, are a credit to a man; but confidence in our Lord, acknowledgment of the value of His blessing, and the realization of human weakness are still better; and to bear this always in mind would be very beneficial to my beloved self.

April 4, 1841.

What I said above is a soliloquy on my last birthday; since that time almost two months have passed and nothing has changed. Your kind letter of November 11 of last year arrived, together with a letter from the von Bergs on January 5. I answered your letter on February 6 and I trust that you received my letter. Your letter of January 3 arrived on March 21, and I intend to answer you now.

Please notify Mr. von Berg at once that I wrote him on October 18 and October 28 last year, and that I mailed both letters in dupli-

cate. On January 5 I had his letter of November 11, which I answered on January 12. On March 13 I wrote again to Mr. von Berg, and a few days later I mailed a copy of my letters of January 12 and March 13 to him. Since his last letter is dated November 11 I have no acknowledgment of my letters of October 18, October 28, January 12, and March 13. All four letters were mailed in duplicate, and I do not doubt that he received them, and an invoice for the goods ordered from him. Please copy this paragraph word for word and mail it to Mr. von Berg with my greetings.

Now to answer your kind letter of January 3. In regard to Valdorf I have already written you in my last letter that I think it is best to do nothing now, but to wait for further developments. We have heard nothing further, and Fritz has not even received an answer to the announcement of his engagement and marriage. I am fortunate enough not to need the 100 *Taler* at the present time; they belong to me by right, and I am not willing to allow them to cheat me out of this amount. I say merely: "Omission is no acquittance!" As it is more unpleasant for Christy than for me to see how her family is treating us, I consider it best that we discontinue writing about this matter, for we shall hardly hear anything agreeable from them. I will ask you, therefore, to restrict our correspondence about Valdorf or Bünde entirely to matters of interest, such as a case of death or any other unusual occurrence.

We are getting along all right, but all three children had the measles, which was general here, and many adults and children passed away. Our children got over it quickly and they are going to school again. We are having Easter vacation at the present time, so Carl is in the store all day, and Mathilde is helping her mother, Fritzchen is playing. Carlchen is very ambitious—he smiles about other boys who play in the street, and he is really proud when he can sell and earn something. Quite naturally there are times when he wants to play too, and I always let him enjoy himself. It seems that he takes quite an interest in the store, but you cannot depend on children of his age; they are enthusiastic today, and tomorrow you can do nothing with them.

Mathilde is a great help to her mother and Christy will miss her when she goes to school again. Her report card said that she is one of the best pupils, and Carlchen's reports are good too, but Fritzchen is so far behind in everything as yet that they give him no report.

On Mathilde's tenth birthday (March 25, 1841) it occurred to me that the late pastor Lehmann gave us a little lecture on our

tenth birthday (February 17, 1812), and so I addressed a little speech to Mathilde. Though I have completely forgotten its tenor, I feel certain that the drift of thought was about the same as in the speech of years ago. Please tell me in your next letter if Wm. Lehmann intends to stay over there, and what has become of him—I mean in regard to his character and religion.

I still entertain the hope of being able to take a trip to Germany some day, though I can see no way that this may be realized soon; however, I keep on hoping, and if it is God's will, conditions may change so that I can afford to undertake such a difficult and dangerous trip. Besides the reasons stated before there are other points to be considered, chiefly, that I would have to leave my wife and children for six to eight months, and I hardly think that I have to mention what this means to them and also to me. My circumstances do not allow me to contemplate taking a trip with wife and children to see you again; and how could I enjoy the trip without them! How do you think I would feel when I am visiting you and then suddenly remember that the great sea lies between me and those I love and for whom I live, and without whom I have nothing in this poor world. When I think of this vividly, when I imagine that I am with you over there, and my second self over here—my third, fourth and fifth self over here also—my flesh creeps, and I feel like——.

Carlchen is quick; Mathilde, like all children, spasmodical, that is, sometimes fast and sometimes slow; Fritzchen is slow. Fritzchen will never be what Carl is going to be. He has not the intelligence, but he may go through life better than Carl; I hardly think that he will worry overly much. It is easy enough to get along in this country without worry if you are satisfied to lead a quiet life. Carlchen in his liveliness will make use of the vigor which nature gave him, he will aspire to do things, and he will need more good luck than Fritzchen, who will be easy going, and who will not run the danger of dropping from a height to obtain which never entered his mind. While Carl may meet with misfortune, Fritzchen will be much more fortunate, for his phlegm assures him contentedness with whatever he may attain. I picture him becoming a happy, contented, and unexciting citizen with a business which will assure him a secure subsistence without gaining wealth; who will not be willing to risk his gains by engaging in hazardous business ventures. If his demands on life are moderate, it will be easy to satisfy them in this blessed country. Carl, however, will hardly be happy and satisfied until he has sowed his wild oats, as they say, and until he conceives *late*, that

the realization of his plans cannot be forced. When I say this I have a certain somebody in mind who believes that he has good reasons to state that Carl did not inherit this characteristic from his mother. If fortune is kind to him, he may acquire in one single year what others acquire in ten years. We hope for the best for both of them, and may our good Lord bless them both.

Carl is very kind-hearted, very tender of feeling, and he has more affection than Fritzchen, and even Mathilde; he does not easily shed tears when he is justly punished, but when he does, it is more for having done wrong, or because his sense of honor is shocked; he prefers a more severe punishment in private to a mild punishment in the presence of others. In spite of all this, his thoughtlessness will permit him to commit the same error for which he received punishment a short time ago. He likes to give unusually well; he owns hardly any toys, for he gives everything to Fritzchen or Mathilde. Frequently he tells Fritzchen to play with all his toys, as he is too old now, and has to study or work in the store. With God's almighty aid we hope to educate them to become useful citizens, and though it is a difficult task with Carlchen, we feel that our Lord knows our position and that he will aid us to bring him up according to His will.

Mathilde, if she continues as she is now, will be an excellent girl. She is strong and tall for her age, obedient and diligent, and she is very skilful in everything; but she, as well as Fritzchen, is a little deceitful, that is, they will do something deliberately and behind our back, whereas Carlchen will forget himself right in our presence. Carl and Mathilde never deny it when they have been mischievous, but Fritzchen has not yet overcome this fault. Carl is a good-looking, tall boy, and you can perceive his kind heart when you look into his big blue eyes with their frank and kindly expression; and by his interesting features, his quicksilver-like, slender body, and his great sprightliness it is not hard to observe that he is anything but a drowsy fellow. When I picture in my mind Wilhelm Lehmann and Peter Moll as youths, I imagine Carl as midway between those two, and I am convinced that you will arrive at the same conclusion if you picture these two gentlemen as children in your own mind. The pleasant appearance and the kind heart of W. L. combined with the intelligence and passionateness of P. M. will give you a true picture of your beloved grandson Carl. However, you may make a few allowances, for I as the father do not claim to be an impartial judge.

Mathilde is a polite and fine girl, tall and strong, perhaps not

as gentle as Dorchen was in her eleventh year, but she is very much like her. And Fritzchen is compatible, tender-hearted, and fairly obedient; he is learning slowly since he prefers to play. He likes to eat his cake so that others don't see him for fear that he may have to share it with them. Julius is improving, and I never had any doubt about this, but his bodily afflictions remain the same, and I hardly believe that they will ever improve.

My dear Christelchen is well pleased, she is enjoying good health and you would judge her to be between twenty-four and twenty-six years old. She is just as amiable as always, and she has a very good friend in her new sister-in-law. She is happy in her children and her carefree life, and to express it in a few words, she is satisfied and happy. I am well satisfied too, for we do not have to struggle for our daily bread, and we thank our Lord that He keeps us in good health.

Business conditions are not yet what they ought to be; our President passed away, and we do not yet know what our Vice-President is going to do. My new store is doing well and I intend to keep it, but I am not so sure about the other store; I may give it up within a short time. I believe that I have already written you that I postponed starting business connections with Cousin Ludwig Springmann.

Greetings to all our relatives and friends, especially to Aunt Peter and her daughters and also to Meta Springmann. There is nothing in view of godmotherhood, my dear Julchen. You inquire about a Mr. Nohl, but I have never heard of him. We heard from a reliable pastor that pastor Rieger, or rather missionary Rieger, has the reputation of being a great hypocrite. We had already suspected something of that kind, but I can report this only from hearsay and it may not prove to be just. I enclose a letter from Julius. Please do not overlook the formula for ink which I had asked for in my last letter. I have already written you that Carl had written again; he and Pauck are getting along well and they are enjoying good health.

April 14, 1841.

The day before yesterday I had a letter from Messrs. H. & D. von Berg dated February 3, 1841, which does not require an immediate answer, and I shall wait until I get the invoice for the goods ordered from them before I write again. Please copy this also for Mr. von Berg and tell him that our President passed away and that we expect better times under our Vice-President; however, it is too early to say anything definite about this.

The failure of our great National Bank has created much be-

wilderment in England, since enormous English investments are involved, but we are inclined to believe that peace with England will be preserved rather than to start a war on account of this, as a war would plunge them deeper into debt than America. We hear nothing certain about war preparations.

Farewell now and please write soon. Hearty greetings from all of us.

Your
GUSTAVUS.

Cancellation stamps read:

Louisville, Ky., April 15 (1841).

New York, April 21 (1841).

Le Havre 20. Mai 1841. (May 20, 1841).

LOUISVILLE, KY., December 4, 1841.

Dearly beloved Mother and Sister:

The beginning of this letter should be an excuse for my long silence; or rather I beg of you to excuse me, for I can find no real reason to excuse myself; I simply delayed writing and now I find that my last letter is dated April 14, almost eight months ago. Since that time I have had two pleasing letters from you, one dated May 6 and the other July 27; both ought to have been answered long ago.

First of all I wish to tell you that we are enjoying the best of health and that we have no cause to complain in this respect. Our children are growing up well and they continue to give us our greatest pleasure, particularly Mathilde and Carl. Mathilde is going to be an excellent, diligent, obedient, beautiful, bright, devoted, careful, unassuming, lovely, etc. young lady, and it is a rare exception when we have cause to be dissatisfied with her. She is very intelligent, though she has not the endowments peculiar to Carl; whatever she does is done with great ease and skill.

Carl continues to learn well and he is very eager to learn, which is the natural result of his ability to comprehend so quickly. His style of writing assumed the likeness of my own hand in a very short time, and it will only take a little more practice and his handwriting (i. e. in English) will be hard to distinguish from my own. He delights in fine penmanship; he discovered a *D* which was more elegant than my awkward *D* and he noticed the difference immediately. He is going to write the address of this letter, but you will have to bear in mind that he is only nine years old, and that our schools are not as good as your schools. Besides having quick per-

ception he is kind-hearted, generous, liberal, friendly, handsome, bright, industrious, obedient, and he has very charming ways.

Fritzchen is the same as ever; he is not dull but he makes slow, almost unnoticeable progress. I find consolation in the thought that he is very young, and I pray to God that he may improve later on. He is more animated than formerly, but he is a little mischievous. Carl may commit a piece of folly in my presence as he is too impulsive, but Fritzchen is more cautious, and unobserved he plays more tricks than Carl. I look forward to the time when the boys will be a help to me; Mathilde is a great help to her mother already.

If only times were better! but there is no foundation for the hope that conditions will improve, at least not for the present. Business conditions are bad everywhere, but in Louisville they are growing worse rapidly rather than better, and we should move if we only knew of a place where conditions were better. There is such a scarcity of money in the entire United States that it is hard to find a more favorable place.

Carl has become the proud father of a little boy; he and his beloved Hannchen and children have moved to Quincy, a small town in the State of Illinois about 150 miles from here. I have no other news from them except that they arrived safely. Carl is very hen-pecked, and this is not only natural but it is a good thing for him, as his wife is smarter than he is, and he can do nothing better than to submit to her will. When they passed through Louisville on their trip from Cincinnati to Quincy, they spent a day with us; the poor fellow had to wash diapers, undress and dress the children, etc. He told me that love for Hannchen prompted him to do this; she however could not refrain from laughing. He is happy and his dear wife knows just how to handle him.

Pauck exists like a cauliflower in poor soil, with too much ground to wither and not enough manure to grow properly. He supports his family, who lead a retired and poor life, and he provides them only with what is absolutely necessary; however, he lives well himself, and he is traveling most of the time. His oldest daughter, Elise, is married and she is very happy; they live in Wapukanetta, in the State of Ohio, and he has a store. His name is Herzing and he is a reputable young man and worth about \$4000.00. We do not know him personally, but everybody tells us that he is the right sort of man. Elise Herzing is an expectant mother, and this will make Father in Valdorf great-grandfather soon.

Fritz is getting along nicely, and what we have tried for six

years in vain to accomplish, his wife has already succeeded in making him comprehend, namely that his partner Lindenheim is a wicked person. He has realized this finally and he is going to sever connections with him this January 1. Ever since this was decided upon the relations between Fritz and ourselves, and also other relatives, have considerably improved, and they have become more intimate. His wife is expecting delivery shortly, and they called yesterday for our iron cradle. About two weeks ago Cousin Schroder, Gretchen's brother, was here. He stayed ten days and told us much, particularly about our friends in Valdorf, with whom he is not on the best of terms. He is a most interesting person and we were glad that we had him with us for several days. He wrote to Valdorf after his arrival in New York that he had come to America, and he was pleased to get a nice letter from his wife. He intends to let her and his three children follow him as soon as he is established and has found a suitable home. He went to Grand Gulf, a small town in the State of Mississippi, where he will open up a store.

Father wrote us a nice letter a short time ago, and he informed us that he had sold the house for 4500 *Taler*, that he intends to keep the 500 *Taler*, and that all his heirs will have to share in these after his departure. I explained to him my claim on the 500 *Taler* in the most considerate and friendly manner possible. I asked August to look into this matter for me and to take care of my interest to the best of his ability, and I urged him to perform this duty well in order to avoid my being compelled to turn this matter over to an outsider. I wrote a lengthy letter to August and also to Father and I appealed to their conscience. I am somewhat anxious to learn what kind of an answer I am going to get. The whole thing is so simple that I cannot understand how it is possible to have any doubts about the matter. The Valdorf people puzzle me altogether and I dislike to put in writing what I think of them. It is bad to be rascally, but to disguise this with hypocrisy, or the intention of doing this, is the worst action I can think of. I shall not write more about this now. I have tried my very best to settle this matter in a friendly manner and I am curious to see if they intend to do the right thing by me, or if they will force me to go to the extreme. I feel confident that they will admit that I am right when they see that I am not to be bluffed. Father wrote a very kind and pious letter, but there was no meaning and sense to it, and August added to the letter that he felt inclined to cross out several passages; however, they were well-meant. Christiane read my letters to Valdorf and she approved of them, so you can see from this that I wrote gently and compliantly.

January 20, 1842.

Six weeks have passed again since I wrote the foregoing and the letter lies still unfinished in my desk. I have been otherwise engaged and I should not be continuing even now if Christelchen were not reminding me of it every day. Two weeks ago Fritzen's wife gave birth to a chubby, plump, great, healthy, and perfect baby boy, and mother and baby are getting along finely. Pauck wrote that his daughter Elise had a little girl and that both were well. Father has now twenty-two living grandchildren and one great-grandchild, and nine grandchildren have passed away. We may expect an answer from Valdorf almost any day. I wrote to Mr. von Berg the other day and I had asked him to tell you that we are feeling fine, and that I intended to write you soon. I hope the letter has reached him by the time you get this letter.

We feel deeply sorry that our dear Aunt Peter has passed away; we were not prepared to hear this, in spite of her old age. Please assure our cousins of our deepest sympathy. There is no possibility of improving Julius' back; our physicians state that nothing can be done and that he never adopted the habit of keeping himself stooped as he is deformed by nature. His face is somewhat improved; his trouble is due to boils, which are developing on his arm now. He has a swollen nose almost all the time, but his lips do not swell so often any more, and the red color of his face has diminished to some extent.

I do not recollect what I wrote Julius whether he was to get fifty dollars the first year and the second year more, or whether it was fifty dollars each for the first two years. Please write me in your next letter what you know about it; Julius tells me that he has my letters here, but he cannot find them. The main reason for my corpulence is my lack of exercise, however I doubt that I will gain more. Did Wm. Lehmann pay you a visit? Does he intend to stay there or will he return to America? Please give our hearty greetings to all relatives and friends. What a delight it would be if we could see each other once more, but these hard times make this impossible. If times had remained as they were four or even three years ago, we might have hoped, but prevailing conditions in the United States do not permit me to entertain such thoughts. To you, dear Julchen, many thanks for the complete description of the last days of our late Aunt Peter. May our good Lord permit our dear mother to be with us for a long time to come! We shall pray that He may grant us this wish. I shall be forty years old soon and I passed the first half of my life probably a long time ago. If only

we should always live so as to see in death the birth of a better and more beautiful life.

We liked the songs by our Cousin Friedrich Springmann very well, but in Servier's parables we find so much nonsense that the good in them becomes imperceptible; for example, an unborn child weeps because it is about to enter this sinful world. Such ideas are more suitable to drive sensible, but credulous, people crazy than to teach and elate them; it would be well to pick out the best and pass up the others.

Please write us a long letter as soon as you get this and tell us how you are feeling; we trust that such a letter is on its way already. Julius started a letter for his uncle and aunt some time ago, it is not completed, but he intends to finish the letter possibly this week and to forward it. He wrote last September also, and we feel confident that they got his letter. Cousin Schroder wrote from Grand Gulf and he tells us that he finds business conditions worse than here, and according to that we expect him back soon.

I shall have to finish now. Christelchen sends her love and kindest greetings, and we unite in the wish that you will remember us very often in kindness. Our children are standing around me and they shout at the top of their voices: "Greetings to Grandmother and to Aunt Julia!" Carlchen says he will call on you soon, and he will talk English and French, and if it is necessary, he may talk German to you. He knew well that Grandmother called pancakes *Speckpfannenkuchen* and he wants you to know that he likes to eat them. Mathilde says that she will help Grandmother as much as she can, but in return she expects Grandmother to tell her some nice stories. Fritzchen says he will kiss his Grandmother and he will promise to behave well.

Farewell, and special greetings to our dear cousins in Osna-brück and to Burcher, etc. Mr. von Berg sent us many Elberfeld papers and also the *Lenne County News*, and we enjoyed reading them on many evenings. Please save the *Lenne* papers and send them to us, when I place another order. Please write soon and keep us in kind memory.

Your loving son and brother,

G. WULFING.

Postscript in English:

My dear Grandmother: I give you my best respects and I am your most obedient grandson

CHARLES WULFING.

LOUISVILLE, KY., Jan. 20, 1842.

It occurred to me that you might get frightened when you saw the address was written by a strange hand, so I thought it best to write the address myself; but I shall prepare you now by telling you that my next letter will be addressed by Carlchen. Thanks to our Lord, we have never noticed a glandular formation on our children, and I do not remember that we ever talked about such things in Lennep. Please give us as much information as you can; without this we become more estranged from our dear fatherland. It will be seven years next summer since we departed. Julius may have written already that we gave up one store, we have now a large store with gas illumination in a newly built brick building; however, if conditions do not improve very soon, we may move away from here. I have decided upon taking a little trip, possibly in March, to see if I can find a better place, as it is really bad here. If Schroder comes back soon, we may go together on a trip of discovery.

Noltenius was never a partner of mine, but he took charge of my other store. He has started a store of his own in a small town named Cairo, in Kentucky, which consists of three houses only. He sells to the surrounding farmers, and I think he will make a living. Our local physician tells us that cod-liver oil is unobtainable in this country, and it would be useless to use it on Julius' back as he is completely deformed, but it would be a good thing for his face. The doctor thinks that the boils will draw out the impurities and that his condition will improve gradually; but he should never marry, for this sickness would be inherited and he would never have healthy children. This is very disagreeable to me; if I had known about this, I should have advised him to stay at home and to become a school teacher. It is worse for Julius, but he does not seem to be aware of it. He appears to be well pleased and quite frequently he is lively and gay.

All the papers praise the patriotic poem, *Sie sollen ihn nicht haben*, etc. Please tell us more about it. A friend had a copy but he took it along and we should like to have one. In the beautiful Ohio Valley in this free country there are many Germans who take a warm interest in Germany's welfare, and who would like to see the Germans united in harmony, even though they are not ruled by one sovereign.

We hope to get a letter from you soon, and we shall not delay writing for such a long time again. Please address your letters the same way as always; if we should move—which is not certain—Fritz will take care of your letters, as he is going to stay here at least one

more year because the final settlement with Lindenheim will take that long. I shall ask him to forward them to me.

Farewell! My darling Christelchen is just about ready to visit Louise, she sends her best regards, also the children and Julius.

Special greetings from your

GUSTAVUS.

Cancellation stamps read:

Louisville, Ky., January 22 (1842).

New York, January 28 (1842).

Le Havre, 21. Fevrier, 1842 (February 21, 1842).

Paris, 22. Fevrier, 1842 (February 22, 1842).

LOUISVILLE, KY., April 10, 1842.

Dearly beloved Mother and Sister:

I trust you have received my last letter of January 20. We enjoy good health, thanks to the Lord; I took the trip I was telling you about in my last letter and I returned home safely.

We are going to move to St. Louis, in the State of Missouri, some time this month, possibly on the 25th. St. Louis is 500 miles from here; we shall make the trip by steamboat, and this will take about three days. We are extremely busy on account of this change and I have to write at night, for I want to write you once more from Louisville.

I liked St. Louis particularly well; business conditions seem to be better than here; living conditions appear to be more pleasant, and we can live better in German style. They have a fine pastor and a very fine German school. Rents are at least twice as high in spite of the fact that St. Louis is larger than Louisville, but this is a sure proof that business must be better. There are many educated Germans in St. Louis to select our friends from, and we can choose what we like best, whereas here in Louisville we have only a few German families and they are not well matched.

Fritz is also willing to move to St. Louis by next fall, and this is particularly pleasing to Louise, since all her nearest relatives live near St. Louis. Fritz and his wife are getting along well and the little boy is developing nicely. In regard to his business he is getting along fairly well, but the general conditions are still unusually bad. He had a letter from Winter, of Bünde, who is going to send his oldest son, a boy of thirteen, to him to learn a vocation. Winter writes he doesn't know what the boy should learn since there are such poor opportunities in Germany. There is no doubt in my mind that this is a good thing for young Winter, for America offers

many more possibilities than Germany. For the moment and possibly for several years to come there will be harder times here than we have had within the memory of man; but since this shortage of money is caused by an excessive passion for speculation, better conditions will have to follow as soon as the people learn to overcome this craze.

In 1836 the United States had not only no obligations, but they had a substantial surplus, and now every single state, Missouri not excepted, and also almost all the larger cities, are so indebted that some states cannot even pay the interest. The Bank of the United States and many state banks have failed, for example, the State Bank of Illinois. This state was so much in debt that they had to declare themselves bankrupt. It is very bad for Carl, who lives in Illinois. He had bought a house for \$800.00, and he has already regretted this, as he hardly sees any cash now; he gets fruit for his goods, which must be shipped to St. Louis. He is not skilful enough to cope with somewhat complicated business ways, and his earnings are not sufficient to support his wife and children. I had intended to visit Carl in Quincy and had contemplated moving there if I liked the place, but I heard in St. Louis of the extraordinary shortage of money in Quincy and vicinity, and I changed my mind, particularly since I had no reason to travel farther, as I found in St. Louis what I was looking for, namely, a growing and busy city with a fine population and healthy surroundings, a good school and a fairly secure opportunity to provide for and to support my family. I shall describe in a detailed letter in a few months how we are getting along in our new location.

Moving 500 miles with all our goods, furniture, etc., is a good deal of trouble, but it is not one-tenth as difficult as you may think. All goods are packed in cases or barrels, plain furniture sold at auction, the steamboat lands at the foot of our street, not forty steps from our door, and everything is loaded on the boat within two hours. The trip itself is extremely pleasant, as you can well compare a steamboat with a floating road house. In three days you are there, you rent two rooms and you put your furniture in; the goods are stored in a ware-house until you locate a suitable store, and then you begin anew courageously. The cost will amount to about \$100.

Now to answer your kind letter of January 11, which we received on March 22. We feel extremely sorry that you, dear Mother, were so sick again, also Julchen and our dear cousins; we sympathize with you and we could not read your letter without tears.

We pray to our good Lord that He may be with all of you and give you the best there is on earth, namely good health. With such a sad letter our first thought was of course: What is Julchen going to do when our dear mother is no more?

Without going into this matter too deeply, it seems to us that in this case it would be best, if you, my dear Julchen, would come over here and make your home with us. We assure you of a hearty welcome, and as long as we have anything, you would never have to suffer want. Christiane and I have thought this over very carefully, and we propose to you, dear Julchen, to come to us in that case and live with us. We consider it our duty to make this proposal to you, and we are convinced that it will be a consolation to our dear mother to know that you will be taken care of as long as we have anything ourselves. Whether you will be able to stand the voyage, whether you can part from all our dear relatives in order to live with us, whether you think that the climate will agree with you, whether this proposal meets with your own plans, and whatever else may have to be considered—you will have to reflect upon this yourself. I trust and do not doubt that you have already made up your mind what you will do. No matter how much we hope and pray that our Lord may allow our dear mother to stay with us, it is our duty to be sensible and prepare ourselves for the time when you may be left alone.

I should consider it unpardonably foolish if I should refrain from talking about this, and I cannot help but think that it must be a great consolation for our dear mother to know that you will be well taken care of after her departure. I do not know how much you will have for yourself, how much you will need per year, if you wish to remain in Lennep or somewhere else; and as I know nothing about this I cannot advise you, but as a good brother who knows his duty and who loves you I can invite you to live with me, and I can assure you that Christelchen and I will be pleased if you accept our proposal. We feel certain that there is no other place in the world where you would be more welcome and where you could live more independently than with us; with me, your only brother, and with Christelchen, of whom you know that she is not so bad. But the voyage, the unaccustomed climate, the departure, etc.—I don't know what I can say about this. Think this over most carefully and inform me soon about your decision, plans, and views.

I was pleased to hear something about Wm. Lehmann and that he remembers the fine time we had together. It will be five years

this month since we began to live in Louisville. Please address your next letter to:

G. Wulfing
St. Louis, Missouri
North America.

From Valdorf we have heard nothing at all, also we have heard nothing from Cousin Schroder, of Grand Gulf, for a long time. Julius is getting along well; the eruptions on his face are not so bad any more and they appear less frequently. He is more ambitious lately and he seems to take a greater interest in his work. If he continues that way I can only say that I am well pleased with him. With reference to his back everything is the same; he is, and he remains, deformed. He is waiting for a letter from the Vollmers and he will answer immediately. If there are letters for me or Julius on the way, they will be forwarded to St. Louis, so you have no cause to feel uneasy about them, as we shall get them all right.

Our children are healthy and if I should write about them now, I could only repeat what I have written in previous letters; they are happy about our trip. Hearty greetings to our dear relatives, especially to our dear cousins and to Meta Springmann, and also to our good friends who remember us in kindness. Write real soon and keep us in loving memory. Farewell, farewell.

Your
GUSTAVUS.

Dear Mother and dear Julia:

I am very sorry to hear that you, beloved ones, were so sick, and that you, my dear mother, had to suffer so much, but it is well that our good Lord has helped again, and that He allowed you to recover. Thanks to God, we are enjoying good health and in spite of the fact that business conditions are so poor we are happy because we, and particularly our children, are feeling well. I suffer from headaches now and then, and sometimes from a toothache, but this is not as bad as it was when I was in Germany. Mathilde is a great help to me, but she is in school most of the time; I am very busy with my household of six people, as I have no maid. Please accept a thousand hearty greetings for yourselves and our dear cousins there and in Barmen, and assure all that we are really

pleased when we hear from them. Hearty farewell to you and please remember

Your loving daughter and sister

CHRISTIANE WULFING.

Postscript in German:

Dear Grandmother, I wrote the address and I am your dear

CHARLES WULFING.¹

April 10, 1842.

Cancellation stamps read:

Louisville, Ky., April 12 (1842)

Le Havre 19. Mai, 1842 (May 19, 1842).

Paris 20. Mai, 1842 (May 20, 1842).

ST. LOUIS, MO., September 8, 1842.

Dearly beloved Mother and Sister:

I trust you have received my last letter of April 10th from Louisville. Since that time, or to be correct, on June 24, I received your kind letter of March 18, and yesterday Julius had a letter from his Aunt Vollmer. We see from the two letters that you, my dear mother, have been very sick again and that you had to endure much pain; however, Mrs. Vollmer informed us that our good Lord helped again and restored your health so that you could take your customary summer trip to Altenberg. We sincerely hope that this trip was beneficial to you and that it strengthened you and also Julchen.

Considering your sickly condition, it seems to me very important to get a clear answer in regard to Julchen's situation after your departure. I hope to hear of a decision which is based on the firm belief in God's paternal grace, but incidentally also on common sense, as this is not a question of her life in the great beyond, but a question of her welfare in this world, where a home, food, and clothing are absolutely essential. Therefore do not write: "God is the father of orphans, without His will no hair can fall from our head, etc." All this is very true and consoling, but it is not an answer to my question. I should like to know what arrangements you have made in regard to Julchen's welfare after your departure; in plain words, how, where, and from what will Julchen live according to reason; and please consider whatever our good Lord is

¹ Mr. Charles Wulfing signed the original letter again fifty-five years later, on November 3, 1897.

doing as something extra which comes to her. When I left, you told me that you never gave this a thought, as you were convinced that our Lord would take care of her because the scripture says: "Bring your trouble before our Lord." I should like to see my question understood and answered in the worldly meaning, as I fully agree with your spiritual answers. You may be perfectly satisfied with the spiritual, but I like to consider both sides, the spiritual and also the worldly side.

We arrived here on May 3 after a very pleasant trip, and I started a store on June 1. We like it here better than in Louisville, and we are glad that we made this change. Business has somewhat improved, but it is still bad all over the United States. There is nothing in sight which indicates an early improvement, and I have to discontinue doing business with the von Bergs for the present until conditions justify placing another order. Fritz was here last week, and he may move to St. Louis by next December. We went together with Carlchen to Kayser's farm thirty miles from here. They were most cordial and we had much fun.

Living conditions in St. Louis are more in German style as compared to those of Louisville. The German ministers are not so satisfactory, but we have a very fine German school, and it will not take very long before Mathilde and Carlchen will be able to write German. They may show their skill at the end of this letter. Mathilde and Carl are learning well, Fritzchen is still very slow, but he is somewhat better than formerly. Uncle Fritz thought they had grown a good deal in the three and one-half months since we left Louisville, especially Mathilde, who is almost as tall as her mother. Carl seems to have an inclination for drawing but he has no ear for music; Mathilde is fond of singing and she has talent.

Times are so bad that it is hard to earn enough to cover our daily expenses. Owing to this fact I cannot pay more than \$100.00 to Julius for the third year, which is the same amount I paid him in the second year. He realizes this is a fair income for these hard times, that he could not earn more anywhere else, and that I could get along with a boy who is willing to work for room, board, and clothing. When times become better I shall gladly give him more. His face is somewhat improved; he has taken treatments for several months and this has been good for his face, but his back is definitely deformed, and that is the only thing that can be said about it.

The *Höherfeld* was always valued at 500 *Bergische Taler*, and since our good home town of Lennep is prospering and is building

new factories and parks, the land ought to be worth more. You, my dear mother, can judge this best and I do not object if you wish to sell for 500 *Bergische Taler*; however, I should not be too quick about selling if you feel that the land may be worth more within a reasonable time. At any rate, I am of the opinion that you should not sell for less.

From Valdorf we have heard nothing and we shall hear nothing for some time to come. They have to admit that I am right and this conflicts with their ideas. August wrote to Fritz that he could not give my letter to Father very well; he understands clearly that I am right, and he promises to write me about it. I suppose that will be all that there is to it; he will do the same that brother Winter did, who wrote Fritz repeatedly that he was going to write me, but I never got a letter from him. Carl has had no letter from his dear father for several years. He lives in Quincy, Illinois, and he is suffering much on account of these moneyless times. He will visit us this fall. Our dear Carl was henpecked by his first wife, but he was classed as a husband; but with his second wife he is nothing but a nursemaid and kitchen maid. To express myself in a nice way, I really should say that he is leading a dog's life while she is enjoying herself and takes life easy.

Pauck started a dye-works and Fritz tells me that he is doing nicely. Fritz and his wife are all right; they have a wonderful baby, and I do not remember that I ever saw such a healthy and strong boy. Friedrich Kayser lives three miles from here; he is a dairyman, has about fifty cows, and delivers milk to the city every day. He is a very fine fellow and has a lovely and amiable wife. This is the only acquaintance Christelchen has made since we have come here, and she is pleased and happy that Fritz and Louise are coming this winter. I have made more acquaintances here than in Louisville, but they are not exactly to my liking. It requires more time to find just what appeals to me among so many Germans. Our children have plenty of friends, and what is more important, they have a better school. The teacher is highly pleased with Mathilde and Carlchen and he is confident that Fritzchen will improve. The children are developing splendidly; all three are healthy and they are our delight.

Mathilde is somewhat touchy, but she promises to try to overcome this when we call her attention to it in a nice way. She is very good, willing, gentle, and eager to help, and her greatest wish is to have a little baby sister, which grandma should send from Lennep, and she would not mind doing the washing. She told her mother con-

fidentially that she knew grandma could not send a baby, but that she had to say so on account of the boys.

Carl is learning well, he is a lively and active boy, and we have to keep an eye on him all the time. I do not mean to say that he ever did anything really bad, such as stealing or obstinate lying, but he is always ready to play boyish tricks. Fritzchen is slowly improving. Learning is a hardship for him, and I hardly think that he will ever acquire more than ordinary school knowledge. Who can tell what he is going to be, possibly a good farmer or a handicraftsman, and these enjoy a secure life free from care in this country.

We have given up the hope of ever returning to Germany, as we do not wish to return without money. Even with improved conditions it will require so much time to accumulate a fortune that one or the other of our children may be married; and we do not doubt that we shall prefer to spend the late years of our lives with our children and grandchildren, but: Man designs, God decrees! If it is God's will, we may see each other once more in this world, and if not, we have to submit to God's will; and we must endeavor to lead such a life that we may meet you where there is no more separation. In the meantime we shall continue to write letters and keep each other in kind memory, and we trust that we may be able to write about good health and contentedness for a long time to come.

The doctor tells me that the use of cod-liver oil is not advisable and that it would not help much in this climate. Julius took a medicine which is prepared by a Dr. Le Roy, of Paris, and which is highly recommended here. This Dr. Le Roy issued a book about the science of medicine which is published in French, German, and English. This book is intended for people not belonging to the medical profession, and they say that it is very appropriate for this climate. This proved to be true with Julius too; in Louisville he took medicine which helped him some but not much. His face swelled up about three months ago as never before, and the doctor advised him to take Dr. Le Roy's medicine. He took it twice and this improved his face so much that he has had no more swelling since. You can buy this book in any bookstore, and I should like for you to get a copy and read it carefully. Then send it to Cousin Reinhold and ask him to tell you his opinion about it. I should appreciate it if you would send me the book at your convenience, as I cannot buy it here in the German language. The name of the book is:

The Healing Power of Medicine
or
The Evacuant Mode of Cure
Based on Practical Experience and directed against
the Cause of Sickness
by
Dr. Le Roy, Surgeon in Paris
Through this empirical method you have your physician
right in your home
First and Second Part
Second improved Edition of the German Translation from
the Fourteenth Original Edition.

I do not know if there are more than two parts. It is possible that Dr. Reinhold or Dr. Burgmann is familiar with the book, and I should like to have a copy, even if they do not think so much of it. Julius' experience is cause enough for me to consider the book very valuable for this climate.

Hermann Schroder lives in Arkansas now, several hundred miles away from here; I do not know how he is getting along. He lives in the country, and I heard a short time ago he had deserted his wife and children. You may inquire about this and tell me something about his circumstances; he wanted to buy goods from me on credit, but I refused this. We have made the acquaintance of a brother of Carl Noel, who seems to be a respectable young man; he is representing the German liquor firm of Biermann in Herford.

A pastor Noltau was here yesterday and he handed me a letter from Cousin Friedrich Springmann and a copy of his *Glockentöne*. He thought I might be able to sell several hundred for him, and he would send them to me at four *Silbergroschen* per copy. I could not sell ten of them and I am going to answer him tomorrow. Winter intended to send his oldest son to Fritz to learn a trade, and pastor Noltau, who married a friend of Gretchen's, was supposed to take the boy along. The trunks were packed, but when it came to saying "Good-bye," all his courage was gone, and the youngster stayed at home. Fritz has inquired whether they were going to send the boy or not, but he has had no reply so far. I am convinced that it would be better for the boy to come to this country than to become a clerk of the court.¹

A few months ago a Mr. Erley, of Flettenberg, who said he was a close friend of Mr. Franz Hammacher, called on me. I should like to get an accurate report about this Mr. Erley, and Burcher might

¹ In Prussia such a position is of life tenure and carries a pension upon retirement.

be able to get this for me from Hammacher. With this opportunity for Bremen I shall write to August once more and ask him to answer my previous letter. I wanted the children to add something to this letter, but it is 11 P. M.; they will do it the next time, as the letter must be finished early tomorrow morning. Julius is going to answer his aunt within a few days; he is sending his hearty greetings to you, to his uncle and aunt, and to his brother.

Now I have written everything I can think of. St. Louis is larger than Louisville and it is gaining every year. The weather conditions are about the same, but there is more fever here.

Friedrich addressed Julius' letter to:

Mr. J. Wüsthoff
care off
Mr. G. Wülfig
in
St. Louis, Mo. Ky.

"Mo." is the abbreviation of "Missouri" and it means that St. Louis is located in the State of Missouri. "Ky." means "Kentucky," and Louisville is in the State of Kentucky. Omit "Ky." the next time, since a city can be located in only one State, and not in two States. Omit also the .. over the letter *u* in Wüsthoff and Wülfig, as there is no letter *ü* in the English language. In place of "off" write "of"—only one *f* and not *ff*. Address your letters as follows:

Mr. G. Wulfing
St. Louis, Mo.
via New York
prepaid Havre de Grace
North America.

Dear Friedrich, it looks bad when an address is written incorrectly, as it is just as easy to write it correctly. In place of "Missouri" write "Mo."

Our water is not as good as it was in Louisville. There are very few wells here since St. Louis is built on rocks; we have to drink water from the Mississippi River. This is luke warm and so impure that a tumbler full will settle dregs one half a finger thick when left standing a few hours. They say that this is very healthy. Julius wrote on July 10 about the disaster of the steamboat "Edna," in which so many emigrants from Neuss and vicinity lost their lives on July 3.

I cannot write to Osnabrück now since I intend to write to Valdorf tonight, therefore I will ask you to give our hearty greet-

ings to Cousin Friedrich Springmann and tell him that pastor Noltau gave me his letter of April 12 with a copy of the *Glockentöne*, and that I am sorry that I could not sell even ten copies, since conditions over here are different than in our dear fatherland.

My dear Julchen, in the future leave space for the seal on the second to the last page only, it is not necessary to leave space on every page. This letter will be taken along by Mr. Georg Meyer, of Wallsrode in Hannover, who is a cousin of the Kayzers. He arrived here two weeks ago to see the country and he is returning tomorrow. It is not certain if he is going to move to this country. In case one of the Springmanns is going to Wallsrode, it would be well to see Mr. Georg Meyer, as he will be glad to talk to someone about us. I think that you, my dear mother, and also you, my dear Julchen, will be pleased with this letter and well satisfied. It may be that Christelchen or the children will add a few lines. Farewell, beloved ones. Heartfelt greetings to our dear cousins and also to Osnabrück and Barmen and all our other friends and relatives, and please write us a detailed letter, particularly in regard to Julchen.

How is Lenchen Burgmann and how is her brother Gustav? What other news is there from our old Lennep? Are many people leaving for America from your section of the country? Mr. Erley, the above mentioned friend of Franz Hammacher, told me that an old friend of mine, Amalie Kauert, whom I knew in 1821 in Solingen, married the school teacher of Kierspe about 1827, and that they now live in America. Mrs. Kleinschmidt, wife of pastor K., knew her well, and it may be that you can find out through her where they live now. I don't know if I mentioned that we enjoy good health, but I prefer mentioning it again to reading the letter over. I shall finish now. Our good Lord be with you and all of us!

Once more hearty greetings and a hearty farewell!

YOUR GUSTAVUS.

Please write us something about our dear cousins; do they still live in the large house all by themselves, or did they rent a part of it? Did all three give up the idea of ever getting married, or did they wish to get married and fail to find the right partner? It must be a monotonous old maids' home. I am satisfied that they would feel better if they had married; I have always heard that getting married was better than staying single, as it is the natural thing to do.

I hear Julchen saying that Gustav writes a lot of nonsense on the

last page, and I admit that my most beloved Julchen is not very much in the wrong.

ST. LOUIS, MO., November 29, 1842.

Dear Mother and Sister:

I received your kind letter of May 3 on June 24; I answered the same on September 8 and I trust that you received my answer. Since then I had on September 29 your kind letter of August 10 from Altenberg, which I have before me now. As I wrote you in my last letter, I expected to get such an answer from you, and that kind of an answer is exactly what I did not wish to get.

We know that our good Lord has promised to protect widows and orphans, and there is no need to send letters about it to and fro; however, we must do our share also, and it is my opinion that you, my dear Julchen, are doing wrong by telling me that you do not know how much you need approximately, and where the necessities shall come from; where and how you shall live after our dear mother's departure. It is also my opinion that you do not view this matter in the right way, and there is no reason for you to believe that I fail to value properly implicit faith in our Lord. On the contrary, I know very well that this is the main point; but as an incidental matter may I ask the question: "Where, how, and in what manner does Julchen intend to live after mother's departure? Will she be able to lead an independent life or will she be dependent?" From the spiritual side this question is answered to my complete satisfaction by your saying: "God will not leave and neglect me"; but I should like to have an answer from the worldly side.

My dear Julchen, you write that to submit humbly to the guidance of God is the highest aim for us to strive for. Well, it all depends on how we interpret the word humble. If you mean that we should be without a will of our own like an ox who is yoked to a wagon and who must follow his leader, then this is hardly the right interpretation. Our good Lord distinguished human beings from animals by giving them intelligence and a free will, and He conferred these qualities upon us so that we might use this distinction for the benefit of mankind; and I am convinced that it is within God's will that you and our dear mother consider carefully now what will be best for you to do after mother's departure. Pray to God that He may show you the right way, and ask Him, after you have made your decision to the best of your knowledge, to give you His blessing.

If we become severely ill through no fault of ours, it is our duty to submit to God's will without complaint, but it is also our duty to use our best efforts to overcome the sickness and to get well again. I am convinced that our late Aunt Gottfried prayed for enlightenment when D. was courting her daughter, but she would have found out that D. was no good if she had used common sense and made some inquiries from people who had known him all his life; and by doing so she would have avoided great and distressing sorrow most assuredly. When you tell me now that this had to be thus to fulfil God's wise intentions, even if we don't understand them, then I can only answer that we should have no free will at all, and that everything that happens or remains undone is destiny. My belief is that, though nothing can happen without God's will, much happens against His will but with His consent, as He gave mankind a free will. If nothing should happen in this world that was against God's will there would be no sin, as it is against the will of God to commit sin. The greatest blessings which distinguish mankind from the animals are: our intellectual power, which enables us to realize that there is a Supreme Being which created and preserves everything; our free will and conscience, which make it possible to discriminate between good and bad; and finally, our ability to speak. Are we supposed to let these advantages—or any one of them—rest idly? What ingratitude this would be!

We were highly pleased and we thank our good Lord that our dear mother is all right again, and we shall pray that it may remain that way for a long time. It was touching to read the description of your sickness, and we feel deeply with you; both of you had to endure much. May God grant that we get good and pleasant news from you for some time to come. Hearty greetings to our good friend Holterhoff of Altenberg, also to our dear cousins in Osnabrück and Barmen.

Our prospects for returning to Germany are very poor; we prefer to live in this country as long as we have no fortune, and under the existing conditions there is hardly a chance to accumulate a fortune. Times are so bad that it is hard to earn our daily needs. I did not send another order to the von Berghs, and I had to ask them to allow me more time, as I cannot meet my obligations as promptly as I should like to. I also had to ask the firm of J. H. Funk, Son-in-law of Roddinghausen & Co., Elberfeld,¹ to extend me more time;

¹ This is an old-fashioned way of naming a firm instead of the modern: J. H. Funk, successor to

this is the firm from which I bought silk goods. I owe nothing else, and if these two firms will consider the hard times which exist in America and grant me more time, I can see no reason why I could not pay them. You must not mention this to anybody, but if Mr. von Berg should say something to you about it, just tell him that I wrote you that I need a little time, and that I intend to pay all my honest debts. Do not worry about it, there is nothing to it, but I prefer to tell you myself before you hear from others that I have been slow in meeting my obligations. We have no reason to be dissatisfied; we are in good health and are getting along all right, though conditions are somewhat slow.

We perceived from Schroder's own remarks that he was very frivolous and we avoided doing business with him for that reason. He went first to Grand Gulf, in Mississippi, and he wrote me that conditions were good and I should move there; and if I did not want to, I should send him goods. I did not answer him at all at that time. A short time later he wrote to Fritz that he intended to go from Grand Gulf to Washington, in the State of Arkansas, to grow tobacco and rice. Four weeks ago he wrote me a letter and asked me to induce his brother-in-law Tolle, who owns a bakery here, to sell out and come to him. I replied that Tolle did not want to sell and that I could not advise him to do so. I suggested that he should live with human beings and not with bears, and that he should move to a place where civilized people live, and that this was the only way to make a decent living if he wanted to lead a respectable life. Washington, Arkansas, lies in an uncultivated region and is inhabited by a few white people, who are—the same as Schroder—without a home, and sleep at night in caverns or in trees to protect themselves from wild animals. They trade with the Indians by exchanging brandy for furs. Schroder is a shrewd man, but he will degenerate fast unless he comes to his senses soon. The Valdorf people wrote to Fritz but they did not mention a syllable about him. You need not feel uneasy about us in regard to Schroder, as we know he is an unreliable fellow.

Our children are developing well in mind and body and they give us much pleasure, particularly Mathilde and Carl learn well and they are industrious in school and also at home; Fritzchen too is improving. Carl especially is very eager for knowledge. On these long winter evenings I read to them frequently and the eager attention of Carl and Mathilde is a great delight to me. The teacher is highly pleased with both. Mathilde is very skilful in household work and she is very diligent. Carl studies drawing and French of his own

accord. He has never had drawing lessons, but through practicing he can draw better than I could after I had gone to drawing school. I want him to address this letter. Julius is the same; he wrote to his uncle the other day. He is feeling all right but his back remains as it was.

Fritz wrote us that he cannot come here before March or April, as his business matters with Lindenheim will not be settled before that time. True to his business principles, the Jew grossly defrauded him. Do not send the book of Dr. Le Roy of which I wrote you in my last letter as we can buy it here. August wrote Fritz that he realizes that I am right, but he could not give my letter to our dear father. This is after the melody: "You may be right, but you have to keep silent!" It is better to think your share about his action than to write about it. I do not wish to be hasty and I prefer to be silent for the present, as I need time to think this matter over, but: Omission is no acquittance! As soon as I see a good opportunity to get what is coming to me by right, I shall not fail to use it. I wrote to August in regard to this a short time ago. Winter gave up his plan to send his oldest son, Julius, to America, as the parting was more than all concerned could endure. You need not leave more space for the seal than I do on my letters, as the seal takes very little space.

Please write us whatever news you may have. We cannot help but think that we may get an engagement announcement even now, after a long wait, either from Clärchen, Lenchen, Dorchen, Hannchen, or possibly Jettchen. These five young ladies aggregate about two hundred years. "Oh dear, that is certainly not nice of Gustav to make fun of us; he is forty years old himself and he should have better sense!" My dear Christelchen tells me that it was unnecessary to inquire about old friends in one letter, and the marriage possibilities of our cousins in another letter. You don't have to tell them about this; I cannot understand how the three girls pass the time and what they do with their large house. Are there no other friends who wish to come to America, or of whom you could write? If my circumstances would allow it, I should like to send Carl to school in Germany for several years. We have talked this over, and though the separation would be very hard, I believe that I have a will which is strong enough to endure this and that I should not act as Winter did.

Your friend Sophie, about whom you inquired, visited us some time ago; she was pleased to meet the portly son of her portlier friend, Mrs. Wulfing. She is getting along fine, she has a good

husband, but no children; she does not wish to return to Germany and she is sending you her kindest regards. Mr. Becker, of Strasserhoff, is not doing so well, he has too many debts. There are many Germans in St. Louis from our dear Berg County,² particularly from Solingen, Leichlingen, Düsseldorf, Neuss, and Köln, and we have more acquaintances here than we had in Louisville.

The churches in St. Louis could be improved, but our schools are better than in Louisville. Greetings to Burcher and Conrad Roentgen, and tell both we are pleased that they take such an interest in our welfare. If I send Carl to Germany, I shall give him instructions to give both extra compliments.

My dear mother, how would you feel if the lad should appear before you unexpectedly and should call you his dear and most beloved grandmother, and you could hardly believe that it really was the beloved son of your beloved son. I am afraid that this would affect you too much, and I believe it would be better to notify you. I will tell you now that we shall give this matter our most careful consideration.

I wish to extend my heartiest wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Your beloved son and brother,
GUSTAVUS.

I will use this space to tell you that I weigh 203 pounds.

Postscripts in German and also in German script:

Dearly beloved Grandmother and dear Aunt Julchen:

I love you very much, and I am your dear, dearest, and only granddaughter and niece.

MATHILDE.

Dearly beloved Grandmother and dear Aunt Julchen:

I do not write German very well, therefore I prefer to write the address of this letter; but I am in English and also in German your beloved

KARL.

A b c d e f g h i j l m n o p q r—1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0
This was written by Fritzchen.

²The former Duchy of Berg was in the lower Rhine section. In 1815 it was made a part of Prussia by the Congress of Vienna. As a result many good Bergians preferred emigrating to America to becoming subjects of the King of Prussia.

Dearly beloved Mother and dear Julchen:

I am convinced that you enjoy reading a few lines written by my own hand, and I wish to inquire about your health. I may add that we love you and talk about you often, that we often wish we could be with you, and we wish more often that you were with us.

We live a quiet and retired life and we dedicate our time to the education of our beloved children; and we tell them much about you. May our dear Lord aid us in bringing them up in the right spirit and according to His wishes. We have in mind, if this is God's will, to send our dear Carlchen to school in Germany for a few years.

Heartiest greetings to our dear cousins, and please assure them of our love and that we think of them very often.

Farewell, and keep us in kind memory.

Your loving daughter and sister,

CHRISTIANE WULFING.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., December 1 (1842).

Le Havre, 3. Janvier, 1843 (January 3, 1843).

Paris, 4. Janvier, 1843 (January 4, 1843).

ST. LOUIS, MO., January 22, 1843.

Dearly beloved Mother and Sister:

I am very sorry to see from your letter of December 1 that you were without news from us for such a long time, and I trust that you have received my letters of September 8 and November 29 by this time. I sent the first letter by Mr. Meyer, of Wallsrode, and the second by mail. Just as I am sorry that you had to wait for a letter, so I am glad that this was not a fault of mine. In similar cases it may be well to put the blame where it belongs and assume that a letter is lost. You are very much in the wrong when you feel that it is lack of love and consideration for you. It is always a good policy to believe the best until you are *convinced* that the contrary is correct; and please bear in mind that there are six thousand miles between us, and that it is nothing unusual for a letter to get lost.

We trust that you, my dear mother, are feeling better when you get this letter, and that the approaching spring will improve your condition; we hope to get better news regarding your health with your next letter. Thank God, we are enjoying good health with the exception of Christelchen, who suffers from a headache from time

to time; I have already written you in my above mentioned letters how we are living here. Christelchen and all the children added greetings to my last letter. The youngsters grow steadily in mind and body; even Fritzchen is improving gradually. Carl and Mathilde learn easily and well, and Mathilde is attending the knitting-stitching-and-sewing school. She is getting tall and strong and developing wonderfully, and this reminds us that we are growing older. The boys are also growing considerably. May our good Lord allow them to remain healthy and to prosper in soul and body, so we may expect great things of them.

Julius wrote to his Uncle Vollmer the other day that Julius Winter had arrived safely; he is a tall and pleasant boy of fourteen years, but you may have heard this already. My dear Julchen, you asked me to read your letters of May 3 and of August 11 over, and to answer them; I did this some time ago, and in turn I should like to ask you to give me a clear reply. Everything is the same with Julius. His back remains deformed and nothing can be done about it; his face is improved, the swelling comes only when he catches a cold, but it disappears faster, since he takes Dr. Le Roy's medicine. I wrote you about this in my letter of September 8.

February 14, 1843.

I wrote thus far some time ago and I wish to continue my letter today. For the moment our health is not so good. Mother has a toothache and her face is swollen. Julius caught a cold or something else; his face is so swollen that you can hardly see his eyes; he uses Dr. Le Roy's medicine, and I do not doubt that he will be all right again within a short time, as this medicine helped him wonderfully last May. Mathilde has a headache and she looks pale. Carl complains of an earache, but he is up and helps me in the store because Julius is sick. Fritzchen and I are all right, thank God.

Julius Winter left for Louisville the other day. He is a tall, handsome, and healthy boy, and his fine manners and filial cordiality are very pleasing; it is really a pity that he is so short-sighted, even more so than Julius Wusthoff. He told us that his dear grandfather was very feeble-minded but strong in body; that Uncle Pastor was a pietist;³ Grandmother Schroder fat as a fattened swine; little Mary even smarter than her mother; her boy reddish like a sorrel horse;

³ The *Pietisten* or Pietists were reformers among the Lutherans in Germany who urged religious devotion and a more sincere observance of duty toward God. Their reform movement, which started early in the eighteenth century, was originally well meant, but declined to false devotion and hypocrisy.

and that Uncle Pastor often said the boy was good for nothing else except going to America; that Uncle Pastor was not able to pay his debts in spite of the fact that he had a good income, in spite of his inheritance of 200 *Taler* and the fact that the farmers brought provisions to him almost every day. He explained to us that this is due to the fact that Aunt Gretchen was so awfully smart and skilled, and that it costs money to display these qualities in the proper light. His father and mother had aged considerably more than Christy and I; I looked fifteen years younger than his father and Christy looked so young that she might pass for a daughter of his mother. It might be possible that his parents would come to America also; if we should advise them to do so. I shall not hesitate to do this, as I am convinced that they could live better here than in Germany on a salary of 300 *Taler*; at any rate I believe it would be better for their children.

The captain of the ocean ship on which Julius Winter came over was a contemptible dog who is being sued in Bremen by all the cabin passengers. His trip from New Orleans to St. Louis was distressing as he had again a worthless captain and a bad boat. On account of the baseness of the captain twenty-three people, mostly Germans, drowned in the Mississippi. Julius was fifty-two days on the ocean, which is the average time for a trip from Bremen to New Orleans, and it took four weeks from New Orleans to St. Louis, which distance should be covered in about five days. He arrived safely and in good health, and he has the best opportunity to forget the danger and hardships of the trip in this country. It will take him three days to get to Louisville, and there is no more danger, as I saw to it that he had the best boat that runs between the two cities.

Business conditions are still very bad, and I thought best to advise Fritz not to come to St. Louis; I have not heard from him as yet. As I was assured that sending newspapers by mail should cost only a few cents, I sent you several German-language papers. In case you had to pay too much additional postage, I would suggest selling them as a curiosity to Schumacher or someone else, or loaning them out for a fee. If you prefer, you may refuse to accept the papers and this may be just as well. They will be returned to Le Havre but cannot be returned to America, as the postage must be prepaid; you cannot mail anything "fee collect" in this country.

Julius Winter told us some of the tomfoolery that happened in Valdorf, among other things, that August was crying like a child because he had no letter from his beloved Gretchen for three days; that he went suddenly to Herford, and from there to Lennep. From

our dear "Papa" we had per Julius one-half page of scribbling, but not a word in regard to the house. August added a few friendly lines but he said nothing about the house either; he finished with: "We hear and see nothing from you except what Fritz writes us." He wrote Fritz some time ago that he had my letter, which he could not give Father, though he realizes that I am right. Father's and August's actions hardly agree with their pietism, and I am forced to believe that both are hypocrites. I prefer to have nothing to do with them and I intend to let the matter rest, as everybody considers the "old man" feeble-minded, and I feel that this excuses his actions sufficiently. "Grandmother" Schroder, as she is foolishly called by precentor Winter and associates, is not in Valdorf any more, she lives now in Mennighöffen from her inheritance of 2000 *Taler*. It is a pity that I can write nothing but unpleasant things about Valdorf; so I feel it is better to drop the whole matter.

I prefer to talk about our fortune, which consists of our three lovely and beloved children. They flourish in every respect, they give us great pleasure, and they are our greatest happiness. Carl assists me in the store on account of Julius' being ill, and this gives him a good opportunity to learn the business. He is very kind-hearted; yesterday he had a little quarrel with Mathilde; somewhat later Tilla was naughty, he forgot his quarrel and asked me to forgive her. Fritzchen takes more interest in his studies, but he will never have Carl's clear head. The teacher is fairly well pleased with him and highly satisfied with Mathilde and Carl. Mathilde's instructress in knitting is particularly well pleased with her.

As I wrote before, the schools in St. Louis are better than in Louisville; the churches and clergymen could be better. Pastor H., the missionary of Barmen, who brought us one of your letters, was convicted of violation and discharged. Pastor W. may be a fine gentleman, but he is a poor pastor; he never studied in a seminary, but he was instructed by another pastor for half a year, and he is preaching sermons now as well as he knows how.

The *Anzeiger des Westens* is a good newspaper, and Mr. Richter, of Barmen, may be a gentleman, but his attitude is not fair; however, it is possible that the paper formerly deserved such criticism. Richter's opinion about the *Antipfaffe* (Anti-Clergy) is correct; it is truly an infamous paper. I mailed a few copies to August to give him an opportunity to compare our much-praised freedom of the press with papers that are censored.

What a man Mr. Richter, of Barmen, must be that he can call pastors like W. and R. excellent. They tell me that W. was a shoe-

maker, and judging him by his knowledge, I am inclined to believe this. I am certain that he is a gentleman who has no intention to hurt anyone's feelings. His wife is a highly educated lady of noble birth; she arrived here as a bride-to-be a year ago under escort of pastor Noltau, and the wedding took place several days after her arrival. Neither had ever seen or known the other before; pastor Noltau simply fulfilled pastor W.'s wish to bring him a beloved sister. This is not a vague report, as W. himself makes no secret of this fact. Please do not get frightened, but the excellent pastor Rieger—to agree with Richter—appears to me to be nothing but a great hypocrite. Mr. Wm. Kayser told me that Rieger knelt down suddenly at a cheerful party in their home and shouted: "Let us pray!" Fritz celebrated his engagement in our home, and Rieger ignored his gown and office completely by telling questionable jokes, which caused us to forget that there was a reverend in the party. He calls on us frequently, and we are on friendly terms, but I think he is a hypocrite and ten times worse than pastor W., who is uneducated and without knowledge but not bad. I am aware of the fact that you do not like my opinion, and that you will pass unfavorable judgment; it is possible that your views are correct. In justice to myself I wish to state that I should like to judge and write differently, but I should be a hypocrite myself if I did this, since everything I have written is the absolute truth.

If Richter knows the two pastors well, then I have no confidence in him; if it is only a chance acquaintance, he may feel that it is a good policy always to believe the best of others until the contrary is proved, and thus far I agree with him. Do you know if Richter ever lived here? Christy, Julius, and I read the *Antipfaffe* and we talked it over; we agree that their views in regard to religion are very objectionable, but we believe it is good to uncover the follies of clergymen, as every congregation is entitled to know what type of man its pastor is, and what kind of a life he leads. You must bear in mind that almost anybody can be a minister in this country, and that ministers have a fairly good income. Therefore many lazy fellows feel that this is a good business, and this explains the fact that we have so many bad clergymen.

A pastor in Hermanville sold his position to a watchmaker as he preferred to become a farmer. A minister in Louisville was an actor in former years; another changed from priest to Lutheran, committed all sorts of folly, disappeared, and became a priest again somewhere in Pennsylvania. When a fellow is too lazy to work and not smart enough to steal, he goes to a distant town and starts to

preach. With a gift of speech, by dissembling and hypocrisy he induces a parish to accept him as its pastor; he stays until he finds something better and disappears when people find something out about him. I can tell you about several cases of this nature, and I am sorry to say that pastor Rachig, of Cincinnati, is the only pastor with whom I have become acquainted in this country, who deserves my esteem. Pastor Möllmann, of Cincinnati, was also an excellent clergyman, but he has passed away.

We are highly pleased to see that our friends in Barmen and Altenberg are so kind to you; may God reward them! Please extend our hearty greetings and assure them that we appreciate their kindness. I am reconciled with August to a certain extent though I do not understand his attitude. He is good and upright, and I feel certain that he can explain his action. May God give you good health and may He lighten the infirmities of age. I shall hold my letter for a short time, as I hope to be able to tell you soon that everyone is in good health again. Carl and Mathilde are all right, and Mathilde attends school, as Mother is feeling better. Julius is still sick, and I am holding the letter, as I should like to inform you about his condition. I have already written about Messrs. H. & D. von Berg in my last letter, and also that I cannot sell the songs of Cousin Friedrich Springmann. Please extend our greetings to Osnabrück.

Dear Julchen:

I expect to get a clear answer to my two letters from you. We heard of the big fire in Hamburg after twenty-seven days. Give our best regards to our dear cousins. My beloved Christelchen and the children send their hearty greetings to all of you and they will add a few lines to a later letter.

February 21, 1843.

Julius is completely recovered and he has been back in the store since yesterday. Dr. Le Roy's medicine helped him again, and judging from the result I believe this medicine is better than cod-liver oil. Christelchen gave me a cake, and each of the children wrote me a nice letter on my birthday. We expect to hear of Julius Winter's safe arrival in Louisville soon. I am going to mail my letter to-day, February 21, 1843, and I am glad that I can assure you that we are all right. We have heard nothing from Carl and Pauck for a long time.

Please write soon and keep us in kind memory. Greetings to our friends and relatives. May our good Lord be with you and all of us!

Your loving son and brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo.

Le Havre, 1. Avril, 1843 (April 1, 1843).

Paris, 2. Avril, 1843 (April 2, 1843).

SAINT LOUIS, Mo., September 17, 1843.

Dear beloved Mother and Sister:

Your kind letter of February 17 arrived on May 5 and yours of June 7 on August 8; we were glad to hear that you received our last letter of February 21. We enjoy good health and may God grant that you, my dear mother, feel better. The contents of both of your letters are sad, and in reply I can only say that I pray our dear Lord may deliver you from your severe illness. With reference to you, my dear Julchen, I wish to state that I understand the prospects for your future fairly well, and I repeat my invitation to live with us; I leave the decision with you, whether you wish to come or prefer to stay over there. Let us have confidence in the future and trust that our dear mother may regain her health and that both of you may enjoy many more years together.

I respect your unlimited faith in our Lord, and also mother's good advice to remain independent as long as possible. If the Cassel Institution pays you 13 *Taler* per year, I advise you not to withdraw your investment, as I know of no other way that you could do better with a capital of 640 *Taler*. An investment, which had your careful consideration and which turned out to be different than expected should not prevent you from making other investments; you must continue to provide for your future to the best of your knowledge. You are inclined to see in God's lenience His own and absolute will, and you will believe it is God's will, when others feel that it is His great forbearance, or merely coincidence.

Did you talk to a reputable physician about Le Roy's medicine? I asked you to do this last winter; I don't know much about the medicine, except that it improved Julius' condition within three days, whereas he took the highly recommended cod-liver oil for years without avail. Julius started a store of his own, but he soon closed up on account of hard times. He is employed in a grocery store at a salary of \$125.00 per year with room, board and laundry free;

he is satisfied and feeling well. Julius intends to write during the coming week and he sends you his hearty greetings. Schroder has a similar job and he conducts himself properly. Carl wants to go to a farm; his wife made herself so disliked in the small town that nobody bought from them and in consequence they earned nothing. Business conditions are slowly improving and I shall be in a position to pay my obligations in Germany soon. I saw Sophie and her husband at church last Sunday; they were in mourning, and I believe that they have lost a child. I hear that they are getting along quite well, but we see them seldom.

Louise was here this summer with little William; she did not feel well but improved within a short time. William was well, but he became ill, and the little fellow passed away one day after their return to Louisville. He was an unusually big boy, strong and healthy when they arrived here. It must have been a severe blow to Fritz to see his only child come home to die. We have heard nothing from Valdorf, and Christy intends to write them shortly. I do not wish to write until I get an answer to my letters. Pastor W. is discharged, also pastor Riecher; pastor H., who brought me your letter, was convicted of violation and he too is discharged. He tried to commit suicide but was prevented and he now lives on a farm.

We hope to get a letter from you soon with good news. Our children continue to develop nicely. Mathilde has to go to school for one more year, after which time she will learn sewing and knitting, and then she will be confirmed. Carl is attending a private school and he studies French and English. The boy is very bright. Fritzchen is improving. They will write to their dear grandmother on the next page. I have to finish now. We sincerely hope to get better news from you in your next letter. Kindest regards to our dear relatives and friends, and please keep us in kind memory; and special greetings from Christy, Julius, and the children.

Your loving son and brother,

GUSTAVUS.

We put to sea eight years ago today.

Dear Mother and dear Sister:

I read your two letters with deepest concern, and I trust that our good Lord in His grace may allow you to recover completely, and that He may strengthen you, my dear Julchen. My beloved Gustavus wrote you that we enjoy good health and we thank God for this with all our heart. My brother Fritz and Louise have suffered a severe

loss. It was hard to believe that little William was only 16 months old, he appeared so big and strong. We hope to get good news from you the next time, and I ask you to remember us in kindness.

Farewell, and please accept hearty greetings from loving
 Daughter and sister,
 CHRISTIANE.

Postscripts in German language and in German script:

Dear Grandmother and dear Aunt Julchen:

Father told us that our dear grandmother is sick and we feel deeply sorry. If I were in Germany, I would help my dear Aunt Julchen, and I would take good care of my dear grandmother. I am twelve years old and I am still going to school. Hearty greetings, and I wish you a speedy recovery.

Your loving granddaughter,
 MATHILDE.

Dear Grandmother and dear Aunt Julchen:

I enjoy writing you a few lines. Father read your last letter to us and we feel deeply sorry to hear that you are very ill. I hope that you may recover soon. I am studying French and English and I learned to swim last summer. I take gymnastics and this makes me very strong. Father wants me to write the address of this letter so that you may see how much progress I have made in penmanship. I was eleven years old July 7 and I hope that I can work in father's store soon. I send you and to my dear Aunt Julia my heartfelt greetings, and I am

Your loving grandson,
 CHARLES WULFING.

dear grandmother and aunt Julia

I greet you heartily, and am your

loving grandson
 FRITZCHEN.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., September 20 (1843).

Le Havre, 27. Octobre, 1843 (October 27, 1843).

Paris, 28. Octobre, 1843 (October 28, 1843).

SAINT LOUIS, MO., November 21, 1843.

Dearly beloved Mother and Sister:

I wrote you last on September 17 and I have had no letter from you since. Mr. Knust, a brother-in-law of Mr. Wm. Kayser, is returning to Germany with his family in about two weeks, and I should like to send you a letter by this opportunity. Shortly after mailing my last letter I had an inquiry from the Vollmers asking for information regarding Julius. It seems to me that these good people worry too much about Julius' welfare. There is no need for this, and if they had more confidence in you, they could easily find out from you what I write about Julius. This would conform better with their apparent devoutness.

Some time ago Julius asked his Uncle Vollmer to be kind enough to tell you the contents of his letters, or at least to tell you what he writes about himself and America, as this would save his writing the same thing twice. The Vollmers replied that they cannot do this, as you do not show them your letters. Julius answered that they should not feel hurt if he does not write as often as they would like him to, as he considered it his duty to write to Aunt Wulfing also, and Julius would have done this long ago, if he had known that she did not see his letters. After receiving a silly letter from Friedrich, which he wrote in the name of his uncle, I explained the whole situation to them, and I trust that they are satisfied with my explanation. If they are not satisfied, I can do nothing more than remind them that Julius is twenty years old and in a position to take care of himself.

They will have a wonderful opportunity next spring to hear about America in general and about Julius and his conditions in particular. My brother-in-law Pauck will leave for Germany in February to settle an inheritance, and he promised me that he would visit you in Lennep. Pauck is still the same careless, bustling idler he always was, but I believe he has learned through experience and will use better judgment. When I picture Peter Henry Pauck rushing up your steps as formerly, I wish that I might be in his place, at least for that time. I am certain that you would prefer to see me coming up; but it cannot be done, and we have to make the best of it and wait until conditions change. We still entertain the hope that my beloved Christelchen and I may be able to visit you when the boys are old enough to take care of my business.

Since I have mentioned the boys, I cannot refrain from telling you again that our children are our greatest pleasure. Mathilde leaves school by the end of next month, but she will continue to

learn sewing. She is going to be a fine young lady. Mother is stricter with her than I am, and this is well, as I admit readily that she is father's darling. Mother says she is a willing and fine girl, and whatever she does, she does well, but she lacks inclination and persistence at times. She is still a child and an artful flatterer, and we should have a little patience with her.

Carl is a bright boy; he has been studying French for six months and he is well able to translate difficult subjects into English, German, and French. He will be through school by the end of December. I intend to instruct him further myself and I may send him to a good private institute to complete his studies in English and French. The boy is unusually bright; it was not hard for me to learn arithmetic, but Carl is learning still better. He makes wonderful headway in penmanship and he is exceptionally eager to learn. I have been teaching him arithmetic every evening for two months and I have no doubt that he will complete the course this winter. He has a very fine disposition, and I am confident that he will be an excellent citizen of the United States and also a successful business man with God's aid. The youngster is my favorite, and mother often tells me that he is striving to copy his father in every respect. I gave up the idea of sending him to school in Germany mainly because they waste too much time in Germany teaching things which are of no use in later life. Furthermore, I have to bear in mind that it is too great a risk to intrust his education to strange people on account of his liveliness and good nature. It is just as easy to lead a kind-hearted and impulsive boy like Carl in the wrong road as it is to show him the road to virtue and honor; and I prefer to keep him under my own protection. When Carl is with me, I can teach him in the right spirit and I do not have to fear that he will become a hypocrite. We have enough hypocrites here who insist that dancing and laughing, or even taking a walk on Sundays is a sin, but do not hesitate to cheat, lie, or indulge in other moral failings during the week. Carl can learn here whatever he wishes to know. He can study subjects which are not familiar to me, or of which I know little, in a very short time, as no time or money is wasted on unnecessary knowledge in this country. He will take private lessons in religion, French and English, drawing, dancing, riding and swimming, and I intend to instruct him in all other things. In English and French he lacks expression, but this will correct itself by daily practice. Carl has learned the rudiments of drawing, and, since he has an excellent teacher, I have no doubt that he will attain his aim. He took swimming lessons last summer.

He knows as much about religion as I knew when I was his age; and he will take riding and dancing lessons at the proper time.

Fritzchen is mother's pet and I am glad that I can give you a better report about him. The boy is improving, he is getting more alert and takes a greater interest in his studies. If he continues like this, he may turn out to be a sensible fellow after all.

Last but not least, I shall write about my beloved Christelchen. Before saying anything else I wish to mention that she is an expectant mother, and from all indications we may expect a little girl some time between June 15 and 23 next year. Christelchen is feeling fine and we sincerely trust that everything will be well. We hope that our good Lord may bless her, and we ask you to pray for her.

I am happy to say that Christelchen, the children, and I enjoy good health, and that business conditions are somewhat better.

Carl intends to go back on a farm, and Fritz and Louise are all right. Julius Winter wrote that his parents contemplate emigrating to this country, and that grandfather is willing to join the Winters, or rather that he was willing at the time when Julius left. I wonder what Pauck has to say in regard to these plans. The children wish to give letters to Pauck for their beloved grandmother and Aunt Julia, and Carl intends to include a drawing. I shall ask Pauck to have a thorough talk with Father in regard to the house in Bielefeld, and it is possible that this may lead to a complete understanding.

Will you be so kind as to send me the following through Pauck:

1. A good arithmetic book.
2. Patterns by Heinrich for fine penmanship, English and German style.
3. A set of mathematical instruments, including compasses, etc.
4. Sketches to practice drawing, for Carl.
5. A good French-German and German-French dictionary.
6. A good English-German and German-English dictionary.

Julius called just now and he tells me that he will give Carl a set of instruments and compasses, so pass this up. He recommended the arithmetic book by H. consisting of three volumes, and the French dictionary by Thibault. He suggested that Friedrich might give you his books, or you may get them from your friends in Altenberg, since their boys are through school. Be sure and get the patterns for penmanship in German style for me, if you cannot get both kinds, as good English patterns can be bought right here in St. Louis. I should appreciate it very much if you could get a few French story books, such as *Guillaume Tell* or others, also the *History of the*

German People. I have forgotten the author's name, but I should like to have a copy with good pictures in wood cut, which covers the history of the Germans from several thousand years before Christ up to and including our present age. Pauck will pay you for your expense, and please give him the amount in writing so that I can refund it to him.

I am certain that Pauck will tell you as much as possible about us; it is hardly necessary for me to caution you not to tell him too much, as you know him too well. In case he is curious enough to ask you where I buy my goods in Germany, tell him that you do not know this.

I have been interrupted so often that my letter is somewhat jumbled. As it is very troublesome to take parcels and packages along for friends on such a long trip, it would be well to send nothing by Pauck except something really useful; however, if you should happen to know a friend who is willing to send me a dozen good pipes, I will admit that such a fine gift is well worth the trouble and also highly appreciated.

December 5, 1843.

Mr. Knust leaves today and I shall finish the letter. Many thousand hearty greetings to you, to our dear cousins and friends and relatives from us, including Julius. We hope to hear from you soon. Pauck wrote us that he intends to leave February 1 and that he expects to be back in November. I believe he will not return until the spring of 1845. If you know of persons who wish to emigrate, it might be well to ask Pauck about American conditions, but I would not advise intrusting him with money or other valuables. Lindenheim, Fritz's former partner, is in Germany and he is not expected to return before the summer of 1844. If he calls on you in Lénep, you will find that he is a very interesting person. He is very intelligent but tricky, and you must not forget that he is a pork-eating Jew, or to be more correct, that he has no religion at all. Heartiest greetings from

Your loving son and brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Dear Aunt Wulfin and Julia:

Since Uncle wrote you today, I will delay sending you a letter for a few weeks, as I know of nothing interesting to write about.

I hope that you, my dear aunt, feel better, and I am glad that I can say that I am all right. Give my regards to Uncle and Aunt Vollmer and also to Friedrich. The letter was sealed already and I ask you to excuse the bad writing.

Farewell; we hope to get a letter from you soon, and I trust that you received my last letter.

Hearty greetings from your
JULIUS WUSTHOFF.

Cancellation stamp reads:
Bremen, March 21 (1844).

*My dear Mother and Sister:*¹

I wrote you on December 5 and I received your kind letter of December 4 on January 14. On January 18 I sent an open letter for you by Pauck together with letters from our children. I shall answer your letter of December 4 now.

Your severe illness is uppermost in our thoughts, and we pray that our good Lord may allow you to get well again and grant you many more years with us. We are getting along well, we enjoy good health and are well satisfied, but business conditions could be better. Our children are progressing nicely, especially Carl and Mathilde, and they are our greatest pleasure through their fine behavior and their diligence. I cannot praise Fritzchen so much, as he is progressing slowly, but he is trying to do better, and this gives us hope for the future.

Mathilde is second to no other girl of her age: she is industrious, willing, and very skilled in everything she does. She assists mother in her household work, and this is a great help to mother in her present condition. We feel confident that a little girl will arrive by the middle of July and we ask Aunt Julia to be her godmother. Christelchen is feeling fine except for an occasional cold.

Carl is doing extra well, and it would be hard to find another boy of his age who excels him. I teach him myself in almost everything, but he learns drawing and French in school. He is going to take private lessons in English later on. Carl is good in French and German, but he speaks English better. He is making wonderful progress in drawing, arithmetic, and penmanship, and he reads the three languages fluently; but he cannot sing.

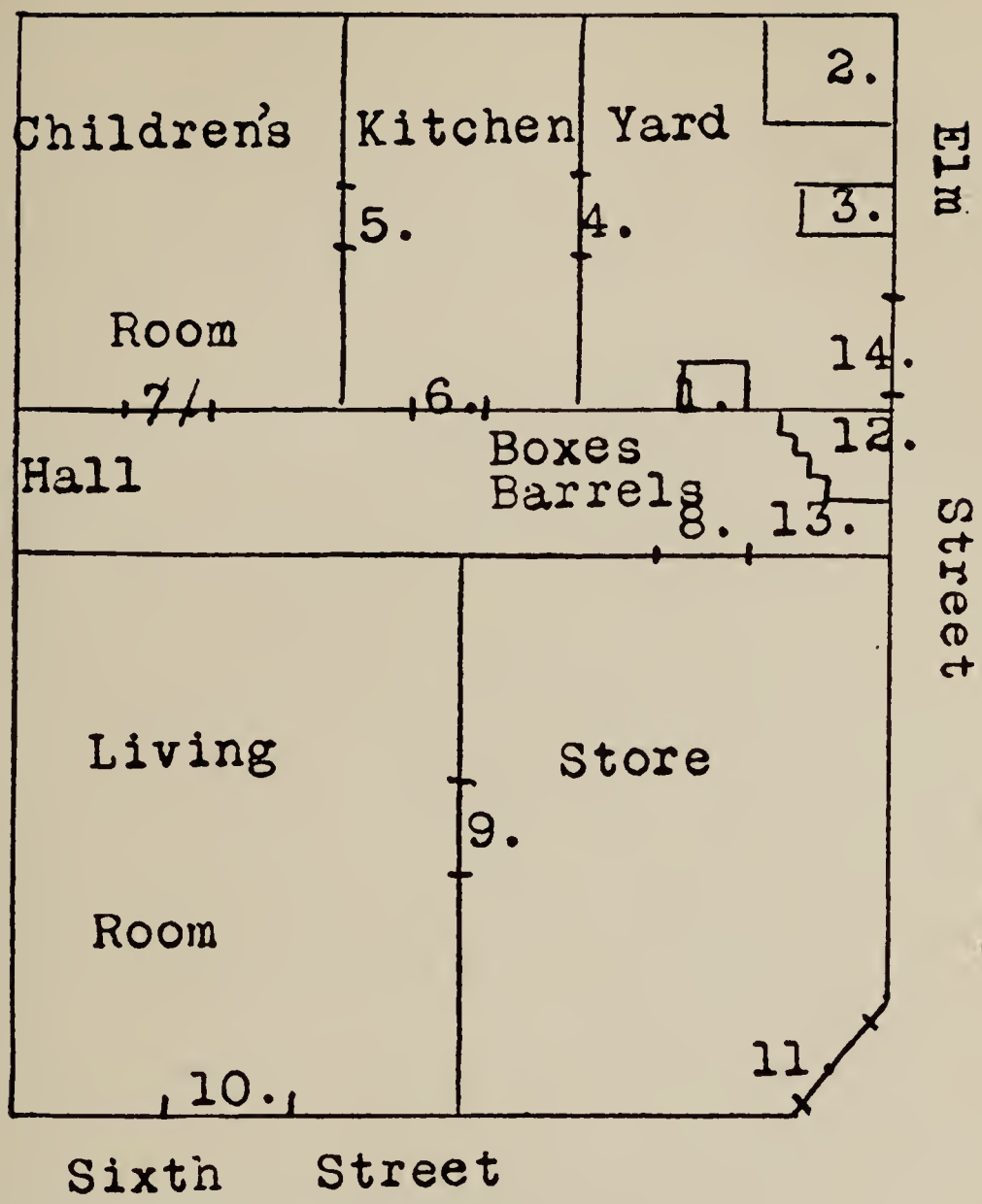
¹ This letter was not dated. It was written between January 18 and May 6, 1844, but not mailed until the latter date.

May 6, 1844.

I put my letter aside, as I expected to get a letter from you, and I intended to write more about Christelchen. We made a mistake in our calculations; it seems that the happy event will not take place before September 20, and we ask you to pray for God's blessing. Christelchen feels all right and she is very happy and well pleased. You will note from the drawing that we have a very pleasant home now. The living room, which is papered, walls and ceiling, contains a sofa, bed with fringed mosquito bar, a fine carpet, two tables, dresser, mirror, pictures, curtains, footstool, and a rockingchair—in short it is a very comfortable room especially for mother and Tilla.

Our apprentice left us on the first day of this month, and Carl works in the store now. He is somewhat young for this, but I continue to teach him and allow him enough time to take his private lessons in French, etc. Carl takes a great interest in the business, he gets up at 5 A. M. and seldom retires before 10 P. M. He is friendly toward everyone and the customers like to buy from him. He enjoys it most when he has an American, a German, and a Frenchman in the store at the same time, and can show that he knows all their languages. In the morning he reads the English paper and marks everything which he considers of value to us. Carl is our greatest joy and he is inspiring even Fritzchen. He finds the greatest pleasure in my reading to him, and he listens most attentively to my explanations. Mathilde is not feeling so well at the present time, she is somewhat delicate and catches cold frequently, in contrast to the boys, who are as sturdy as Cossacks.

Julius has entered into partnership with his former employer; he has one third interest in the firm, which means that he may earn \$200.00 per year, in place of \$125.00, besides room, board, and laundry free. He calls on us every day and seems to be happy and satisfied. Herman Schroder opened up a beer garden about two weeks ago, but I cannot tell much about it. He may make a living for himself, but I doubt that he will earn enough to support his wife and children. Our dear brother-in-law Carl and his much beloved dear heart, called Aunt Hannchen, have sold their farm again, but they have not decided what to do next. Fritz writes us almost every week and he is getting along well. He and Louise send you hearty greetings; they wish to thank you for your kind words of condolence; they expect a baby by the middle of



1. Well
2. Coal Shed
3. Toilet
4. Door from Yard to Kitchen
5. " " Kitchen to children's room
6. " " Hall to Kitchen
7. Error
8. " " Store to Hall
9. " " " " Living Room
10. " " Living Room to 6th Street
11. " " Store to Street
12. " " to Cellar
13. " " Garret
14. " " Yard to Elm Street.

July. Lindenheim returned to Louisville about six weeks ago; he wrote that he called on you, and that both of you felt fairly well at the time of his visit. He promised to write more about his visit, but he has neglected to do so. We are highly pleased to hear that you are feeling better, and we hope to get a letter from you soon which confirms this. Julius wrote his Uncle Vollmer last week and he received a letter from his brother Friedrich the day after he mailed his letter.

Pauck left Cincinnati in March and I hope he will visit you during the summer. The Vollmers mentioned nothing about Lindenheim, so we presume that they did not see him. Hearty greetings to Arnold Hard, and please tell him that we appreciate his warm interest. May God bless him for his kindness toward you. It is highly gratifying to be reminded of an old friend in such a nice way. Do not worry about Julius; he is all right, twenty-one years old, respectable, and he supports himself. He did not wish to stay with me; he is now in business with Phillip and earns a good living. Carl will work with another firm as soon as he is through with his apprenticeship, and when Fritzchen is old enough to learn the business. When you recall how young I was when I entered apprenticeship, you will realize that it is the right time for Julius to establish himself. I am convinced that you did right in selling the *Hoherfeld*, as this simplifies your affairs.

Hearty greetings to our dear cousins in Lennep, Barmen, and Osnabrück, and please mention that we think of them often. I presume that Lindenheim called on you in January. Christelchen wishes to add a few lines and I shall close. I hope that we may get a letter from you with good news soon.

Farewell, and be assured that we think of you every day.

Your loving son and brother,

GUSTAVUS.

I should like to add a few lines, as I wish to ask you, my dears, to include me in your prayers, particularly since you know my condition. I cannot express in words how really happy we are. I trust that everything will turn out well, and I am taking good care of myself.

We hired a woman to take care of the washing and scrubbing each week, and Mathilde helps me in the household, which is smaller since Julius left us. Father wrote a short time ago that everybody

in Valdorf is all right. We trust that your next letter will confirm Lindenheim's report that you feel better, and may God be with you.

Farewell, and keep us in kind memory.

Your
CHRISTIANE.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., May 7 (1844).

Le Havre, 13. Juin, 1844 (June 13, 1844).

ST. LOUIS, Mo., August 16, 1844.

Dear Mother and Sister:

On May 6 I answered your kind letter of December 4 of last year. Since that time I have failed to hear from you, and I am afraid that a letter may have been lost in the mail. We hope to receive a letter from you soon and to get good news. Lindenheim sent us a verbal message informing us that you felt well at the time of his visit, but we have heard nothing since. We are feeling fine and every one of us is in good health; Christy expects delivery by the middle of September; she is all right and we trust that everything will go well. I shall hold this letter to tell you all about it. We are longing to get a letter from you, and it is possible that we shall hear from you in the meantime. Business is slow, as always at this time of the year, but I am confident that it will be better in the fall.

We had a terrible flood this spring. The Mississippi was thirty-six feet higher than its low-water mark. The three streets nearest the river were flooded, and on First Street the water reached the second story of the buildings. We did not suffer on account of the high water, as our home is located high. All the farms near the river were inundated, and the entire harvest is lost for this year. Some of the farms will be unproductive for years, as they are covered with sand eight feet high at some places. The Ohio River had no high water, and since the harvest is good in general, there is no danger of scarcity of food.

We have elected Mr. Christian Hardt as our school teacher. He was the teacher in Remlingrade for sixteen years, and the children of Johannes Hilger, of Dohlerau, were his pupils. He gets \$400.00 per year, but \$50.00 are charged against this income for rent. Hardt appears to be a respectable man and seems well qualified to fill the position. He is hard up at present, as sickness has reduced his funds and he lost his home through the flood. As I am a director

of the school board, he owes his appointment chiefly to me, and I should be glad if you could furnish me with a complete report about him. Mr. Christian Hardt was a teacher in Remlingrade, Remscheid, and also in Lüttringhausen; he is about forty years old.

Thanks be to God, I can write only the best about our children. Mathilde is growing fast and she is getting stronger. She is attending a sewing school this summer, and her teacher tells us that she is her best pupil. I am just as proud of her as I am proud of Carl. Carl had to give up his drawing lessons, as his teacher left St. Louis, but he will continue as soon as we find another opportunity. He is in the store all day, and I teach him arithmetic, penmanship, bookkeeping, and correspondence. He exchanges letters with Julius Winter in Louisville, and they have to correct each other. I find that this method spurs them on, as each aims to excel the other. Fritzchen is improving also, and I hope that Mr. Hardt will take a special interest in him, so that I can write that he is one of the best in place of, "he is getting along fairly well."

September 30, 1844.

Since writing the above, my beloved Christelchen has given birth to a still-born boy. The baby was born on Monday, September 16 at 3 P. M. It was a most difficult delivery, but with God's aid Christelchen is able to be up again after two weeks; she is up for the first time today. As a proof Christelchen wishes to add a few lines to this letter, and this will show you that she is well.

We held this letter until today, because we hoped to write you the good news about her recovery together with the bad. The baby had a beautiful body, but the birth was so extremely difficult that the child could not live. I cannot tell you how sad we feel and I do not wish to write too much about it, as it will only inspire mournfulness and sorrow, and this will not change matters. We are trying to reconcile ourselves and trust that our good Lord may keep our other children in good health. It was particularly hard for Mathilde; she likes children and she had made a thousand plans how she would take care of and caress the baby. Our Lord giveth and our Lord taketh, His holy name be praised. We wished to keep the little darling, but God ordained otherwise. We try to comfort each other as much as possible. We find our greatest consolation in my beloved Christelchen's improved condition. She is very weak but she is gaining strength every day. May our good

Lord be with us and comfort us, so that we may overcome our sorrow.

Dearly beloved mother, I have to finish now. We presume that your letter is lost, as we can think of no reason why we should be without a word from you for such a long time. We have been in this country nine years, and the loss of a letter does not surprise us, as we know that this can easily happen in transatlantic communications; however, we expect to hear from you almost any day. Julius is getting along all right; he gave up his former position. He had no work for some time, and it was good for him that he could stay with us; he is now working again, and he has a fairly good job. Say nothing about this to his uncle or other relatives, as Julius may want to write about this himself. He has another job and I presume that he will be more careful the next time. He acted on his own accord without asking for my advice; if he had done so, things would be different. I am sure he has learned his lesson and will use better judgment in the future.

Farewell, beloved ones; greetings to our dear cousins, and remember us in kindness.

Your
GUSTAVUS.

Dearly beloved Mother and dear Julia:

Just to prove to you that I feel better, I should like to add these few lines. This birth was the hardest experience I ever lived through, but our good Lord gave me strength. It was extremely sorrowful to give up the little baby, as we wished to keep him, but we must submit to God's will. God knows what is best for us, even if we do not understand. My dear mother and dear Julia, it is in such trying days that we realize the value of religion and the greatness of our dear Father in heaven.

Farewell now. Please send us good news soon, as we have not heard from you for a long time. Do not feel hurt because I write so little, for I am still very weak.

Your loving daughter and sister,
CHRISTIANE WULFING.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., October 2 (1844).

Le Havre, 7. Novembre, 1844 (November 7, 1844).

Paris, 8. Novembre, 1844 (November 8, 1844).

SAINT LOUIS, MO., December 15, 1844.

Dearly beloved Mother and Sister:

Your kind letter of August 25 arrived on October 7, and I trust that you received my last letter of September 30. Nothing of great importance has happened since that time. I had a hard fall on level ground and sprained both ankles so badly that I had to sit on a chair for four weeks; it is all right again, but my ankles are still weak. We have had no frost so far and we trust that the winter will not be too severe on our dear mother. It is too bad that Lindenheim called only for a few minutes, and we sincerely hope that Pauck will go to Lennep and visit you. I wrote him a short time ago and asked him to be sure to call on you. I commissioned him to settle the matter of the house in Bielefeld with the old gentleman, and I explained everything to him. I mailed my letter to Fritz first, he checked everything up and wrote underneath that he had checked all my statements and calculations, and found them to be correct and fair in every detail. He also expressed his surprise that a matter which is clear in itself could cause so much unnecessary correspondence. I trust that Pauck will arrange everything and I am eager to hear from him.

In reference to our dear children I can only repeat what I wrote before. Mathilde will be confirmed next Easter and she is one of the best pupils in the Bible class. Carl is getting along fine and, considering his youth, he is doing unusually well; he is very eager and versatile, and as a Christmas present he wishes to get permission to learn to play the flute. Fritzchen is progressing too, but considerably more slowly than the others; Mr. Hardt is just the right teacher for him, untiring and extremely patient.

Please get Dr. Reinhold's opinion on Le Roy's medicine. It helped Julius wonderfully, and I take it as a spring tonic. It is a very strong medicine, but it improves my general condition so that I feel as fine as in 1820. I have to be very careful on account of my corpulence. I do not wish to cause you trouble or great expense, but you may be able to get the books for me without asking our relatives in Bielefeld, and Pauck will refund you any expense you may have. Julius is getting along all right; he is a clerk in a grocery store, and has a fairly good position.

Now to the main point of my letter: Herman Schroder had a letter from his wife wherein she mentioned that she heard from a visiting friend that his mother had passed away. Since Schroder was not informed of the death of his mother, and not having

any other information, except his wife's letter, I should like to hear from you whether his mother passed away, if she left a will, and who is the executor of her estate. To be brief, Schroder would like to get complete information about his mother's death and what her condition was at the time of her passing on. He would like to know something about her testament, where it is filed, and whether his mother willed something to him or his children. He feels that he has good cause to distrust his sister, and I think that he is not so wrong in this respect. If you are in a position to find out something in regard to this, do not hesitate to write me about this freely, as I promise you not to reveal the source of my information. I am writing to Winter in Bünde today and I shall ask him the same questions. Schroder will not find out who gave me this information, and he will never know whether you or Winter wrote me. Please do not feel that you need not answer, since I wrote to Winter too, and do me the favor of telling us everything you can find out.

I do not know what else to write about today. Julius spends Sundays with us, and he wishes me to mention that he wrote his uncle last September, and that he has heard nothing from him since.

Christy and Carl have gone to church, Mathilde is cooking, Fritzchen is working on a sun-dial, and Julius is reading the paper. I shall finish with heartiest greetings to our beloved grandmother and our dear Aunt Julia, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Farewell, and keep us in loving memory, particularly Christine, Mathilde, Carl, Fritz, and your

GUSTAVUS WULFING.

If it is not too much trouble for Pauck he may bring copies of the *County News* along, as we appreciate them very much.

Cancellation stamps read:

Le Havre, 15. Fevrier, 1845 (February 15, 1845).

Paris, 16. Fevrier, 1845 (February 16, 1845).

Letter arrived in Lennep on March 7, 1845.

ST. LOUIS, MO., May 12, 1845.

Dearlly beloved Mother and Sister:

Julchen's kind letter of March 19 and her letter of January 20 reached us safely, and we note that you got my last letter of December 15. Julius wrote to his uncle on February 20, and we do not doubt that his letter has arrived by this time.

Mother's continued illness grieves us immensely, and we wish with all our hearts that her sad condition may change. When we see her suffer like this, and know that there is no hope whatsoever of improvement, it is well for us to prepare ourselves for her early departure. Unless we are selfish, we should be willing to see her relieved of her severe suffering, and we must wish that she may find eternal peace. I believe that true love ought to be free from selfishness, and we should not grieve too much when our dear mother enters from pain and agony into eternal joy and happiness. It will be a severe loss for us, and for you in particular, and I can well understand that you would like to have our dear mother with you in spite of such suffering. We shall submit to God's will, who has resolved in his great wisdom when to relieve our dear mother of her great affliction, and who will not take her away from us one moment before that time comes. At all events we must be prepared for this severe loss, and since I hope that you can talk the contents of this letter over with her, I shall repeat my ideas regarding your future and submit a few suggestions.

Soon after mother's departure it will be necessary to rearrange all the old matters, and Hardt, Hilger, or another friend may assist you in doing that. The question now is: will you sell everything, and keep only a bed and some essential furniture, or do you prefer to keep the house? If you sell everything, will you find a home with our dear cousins in Lennep, or in Osnabrück, Barmen, or Altenberg; or do our relatives, together with Hardt or Holterhoff of Cologne, intend to create a fund for you, on which you can live? If you keep the house you have a home, but you are compelled to live in misery and distress for the rest of your life, since you will have to depend on the good will of our relatives for financial support. If you can sell so that you are without obligations, if you find a home with our cousins, or in Osnabrück, Barmen, or Altenberg, if you get your own little room with your own furniture, if you have sufficient clothing and enough money to cover your needs without being compelled to ask for support every time you need something—in short, if you have a home, food, clothing, and sufficient money, then I would advise you to stay over there, as I feel that you would live a life free from care. If this cannot be accomplished, and if you have to continue with worries and hardships, with obligations and other financial troubles as in the past twenty years, then I suggest that you take courage and, leaving everything behind you—friends, relatives, house, home town, and even your fatherland—come to us. Tear yourself away from old

habits and acquaintances and come to your only brother, who loves you dearly, to my beloved Christelchen, and to our dear children, and with God's aid you will be free from world worries.

If you decide to come to us, you have to take the following into consideration:

1. The break with everything you have loved in Europe.
2. A dangerous voyage, which includes hardships and suffering, which may cause you to lose your courage. You must not consider traveling by steerage under any circumstances, as even cabin passengers endure so many privations that they are more than glad when the voyage is over.
3. It is hard to say if the climate will agree with you or not. The change of climate did not affect us very much, except that Christy is somewhat stouter than in Germany. I weigh 198, Christy 130, Mathilde 91, Carl 76, and Fritzchen 65 lbs. Many people suffer from intermittent fever here, but we have not so far.
4. Existing conditions in regard to religion: I feel certain that you would like our English-speaking ministers, but you would hardly learn to understand them. We do not think so much of pastor W., but it is possible that you may like him; in that case you may join his congregation, which would not make any difference to us, as our family life is based on tolerance and personal freedom. We can each have our own faith and still get along very nicely. You may go to pastor W.'s church, and we go to our pastor Picker, and this would not influence our love and respect for each other.

We consider laughing wholesome, and we believe that dancing or going to a theater is an innocent pleasure. We live a moderate, frugal, and contented life. Carl and I take care of the business, Christy and Mathilde of the household. In the morning we have coffee, bread, butter, syrup, and occasionally fried potatoes and left-over meat; at noon potatoes, cabbage, meat, and sometimes soup, or sauerkraut, or a glass of beer. In the evening we have, in winter, coffee or tea, butter, bread, meat, and potatoes, and, in summer, water or milk, salad, meat, butter, and bread. Christy and Mathilde do all the household work including washing, and they find time to go out in the afternoon twice a week. Next to the store we have our living room, then a small room, where we cook and eat in winter, and a room for Mathilde, which she will share with her dear Aunt

Julia. The boys sleep in the garret and Christy and I in the living room. It is only a one-story building. We use the kitchen only in summer time. The well is in the yard. We live plainly and simply, we enjoy good health, and are well satisfied; we have some worries but we do not have to struggle for our daily bread.

We have good reason to look with confidence into the future, as I have bought some fine building lots in St. Louis. I invested \$967.50 in these lots, I paid \$467.50 down and owe \$500 on them. For the time being this money is tied up and it brings no returns, but the lots will increase in value. I feel confident that my investment will pay an income later on, on which we can live, provided we lease the lots for ten or twenty years and they are built upon. This investment will prove to be such a fine transaction that we can face old age with confidence. These lots will bring enough rent in ten years that this income will cover our living expenses. Say nothing about this to anyone, since I need more time to pay v. B. and the other firm in Elberfeld; if they should insist on my paying them at the present time, I should have to sell now for \$1500.00. It would be very foolish to do this, as there is no doubt in my mind that the lots will be worth \$10,000.00 in ten years. I owe \$500.00 on the land and I pay 10 per cent interest, which means \$50.00 per year. Do you think it would be possible for me to borrow \$500.00 or more at the rate of 6 per cent in Germany? Do you believe that our cousins in Barmen have enough confidence in me to take a first mortgage on this land of 1500 to 2000 *Taler* at the rate of 6 per cent? I should arrange the interest payments through a firm in Bremen, and I offer to prove that a mortgage of 2000 *Taler* on this land is as safe as any other investment. It would be well if this could be arranged. Please understand that I am not asking for anything unreasonable; I am willing to prove that these city lots are worth twice the amount of the loan, and I should pay the interest promptly with a draft on Bremen. I should pay my loan of \$500.00 and give our cousins a first mortgage for the total amount.

Julius has a position with a cousin of Fritz, who is a grocer, he gets \$120.00 per year and room and board. His back is unchanged and it is useless to hope for a change; I mean by this that he remains deformed; he feels all right and he is perfectly satisfied. If Julius had \$200.00 to spare, he would consider a trip to Germany, but he would return to this country. If his uncle is willing to pay the expenses, he would not hesitate to visit him. Julius did not ask me to write this, I am doing it of my own accord, but I know

that he feels that way about it. Julius calls on us every day and he promised me to write soon.

Our dear children grow, thrive, and flourish, and they are our greatest pleasure. Mathilde is almost as tall as her mother, and she went to her first ball a week ago. Christy looks very young, it is hard to believe that she is the mother of such a fine daughter; most people would take them for sisters. Mathilde was the best of thirty-five girls in her Bible class, and her confirmation certificate by pastor Picker reads "A-1, Excellent." Carl works in the store all day; we hope to get a high school for boys soon, and if we do, I intend to send him there. Leaving school so early did not harm him in the least, as I instructed him in everything, and with his great ability, eagerness to learn, and diligence he knows even more than most boys who have continued to go to school. Mr. Hardt taught him to read music notes, he took only six lessons and is now teaching himself to play the flute; his own eagerness and perseverance help him to overcome the lack of lessons. Mathilde joined the choir and she sang for the first time in the church yesterday, on Pentecost Sunday. The church was so crowded that many had to stay outside. Fritzchen is improving slowly.

Mr. Hardt is an excellent teacher, who makes great efforts to teach his pupils. We are highly pleased to get such a fine report from you about him. Schroder is not liked very much, he does not merit confidence; we see him seldom, and we are not very anxious to see him. Pauck's idea of being a consul will end in smoke. He applied for this position, but it would discredit the Prussian Government if they should entrust a frivolous old fool like him with a consulate. I still believe that he will visit you, but if he fails to call on you in Lennep, it will be due to lack of funds. If you intend to write him, simply address T. H. Pauck in Bielefeld, and I feel sure that he will get your letter. You mentioned nothing about the flood, but our newspapers are filled with reports from Cologne and Düsseldorf dated March 20. We hear that the Wupper River was also very high.

I have had to change my line of business and I now have a grocery store; we earn enough to cover our living expenses, but not much more. The city lots will make up for this. They erected 1200 new buildings last year, and they are building more than 1500 this year. This might prove to you that the lots, which are worth \$1000.00 at this time, will be worth ten times as much in ten years.

Some time ago Mrs. Fred Erkelenz and Mr. Henry Thorner from here left for Osnabrück. Madam Erkelenz knows the Springmanns and she promised us to call on them; her home town is Burg-Steinfurth. Thorner comes from Osnabrück and he intends to stay there for two years. If Cousin Springmann calls on him, Mr. Thorner will gladly give him all the information which he may like to get about us or St. Louis. Mr. Thorner loaned me the \$500.00 which I owe on the land, and he bought the lots right next to my own. You can get the best information possible through him, and this would help you very much, especially if you should decide to come to St. Louis. His father owns a grain store in Osnabrück. Christiane and Mrs. Thorner are very good friends.

Dear Julchen, do you believe that I am very much in the wrong if I consider the wedding day just as important for a girl as her confirmation day? Father (not August) wrote about Gretchen's departure and Christy answered him promptly. Pauck wrote that Father intends to do nothing about the house. In answering I informed Pauck about everything in detail and Fritz added to my letter that he agreed with me. We have heard nothing since, and I am afraid that Pauck can do nothing more. I believe it will be best to let the matter rest and make a settlement with Father's heirs later on. You stated in your letter that I wrote we are not worried about our dear mother's condition. I do not understand this and I believe that you will see your error when you read my letter again. How could I write such a thing, since mother's condition is on our mind constantly and grieves us very much.

When I read the passage of your letter which reads: "I will be alone, Oh, how I shudder, when I think of the future," I can only answer: "Sell everything and come to us," for your remark shows clearly that you have no pleasant and carefree future ahead of you. I am convinced that this would be the best thing for you; there will be no more hardships after your arrival. The voyage and the thought of leaving everything are very hard, but you will not have to feel lonesome, as you will find fellow-travelers from Bremen to St. Louis. Think this over and find consolation in the thought that your troubles and worries will be over when you are with us. From Father's letter we take it that August did not lose a child, but one may have died a few years ago. My ankles feel somewhat better. We appreciate it that our cousins are so kind to you; please extend our best regards to them, also to Barmen and Osnabrück, Burcher, etc. We heard today that Mexico has declared war on the

United States. I have nothing to do with soldiery, and since it can be a naval war only, there is no danger for St. Louis.

If you contemplate coming to us, it would be very well to get as much information as you can in regard to ourselves and America; therefore, I urge you to write Ludwig or Jettchen Springmann and ask them to call on Madam Erkelenz and Mr. Thorner. We, particularly Mathilde, thank you very much for your best wishes on Mathilde's confirmation. Today, on May 13, we have heard that yesterday's report about Mexico's declaring war on the United States is not correct. A naval war with Mexico may delay our correspondence to some extent; I am going to mail this letter today and I trust it will reach you promptly. I hope our dear mother is feeling better, and that she may stop worrying about your future when she sees that we—Christy, the children, and I—invite you to come to us. As I said before, it will be hard for you to leave everything that is dear to you. The trip is a hardship in itself, but the well-founded hope of a pleasant future free from worries about a home, clothing, etc. is well worth the sacrifice. Thank only our Lord for this, and do not thank us for our offer; we know our duty, and we feel honor-bound to repay an old debt we owe our parents.

Now I will conclude. Fritzchen wants me to crack the whip with him. Christelchen is contemplating a trip to Louisville this summer; she wishes to hear from Pauck as much as possible about our dear fatherland. Mathilde is learning dress making thoroughly, and this will enable her to earn her own living, if it should become necessary. Christy and Mathilde have been making their own dresses for a long time, also clothes for the boys and pants for me.

Mathilde reminds me to tell you that she is father's and mother's little sweetheart. You wrote: "You poor boy with your feet" This caused the youngsters to split with laughter: "Father a boy of 198 lbs. and 43 years old!"

Farewell, my beloved ones; may our good Lord be with you and us, and may He enlighten you, my dear Julchen, to make the right decision, whether to remain in Germany, or to live with us. Please write in detail quite soon.

Hearty greetings from all of us and Julius to you and our dear cousins.

Your loving son and brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., May 14 (1845).

Le Havre, 19. Juin, 1845 (June 19, 1845).

SAINT LOUIS, Mo., October 28, 1845.

Dearly beloved Mother and Sister:

In my last letter of May 12/13 I wrote mainly in regard to Julchen's future and I asked you to give me a clear answer. I failed to hear from you and I am almost forced to believe that my letter did not reach you. Your kind letter of April 19 arrived on June 17, and I answered your letters of January 20 and March 19 on May 12. Julius expects a letter too, as he has not received an answer to his two last letters. Winter, of Bünde, wrote on September 2 that Pauck is in Bielefeld awaiting the outcome of a law suit. Winter mentioned also that thousands of people and cattle are dying from eating poisoned potatoes and that Germany is facing a famine. What is the cause of this?

Christiane was visiting in Louisville from June 16 to August 11, and Mathilde went there on the 21st of this month. Christy found a nice position for her with a Dr. Dunhoff, and Mathilde intends to stay for a year to perfect herself in feminine occupations. The doctor's wife is a young lady especially qualified to teach, and we do not doubt that this experience will be very good in every respect for Mathilde. This means more work for Christy, but she feels extra well and believes that she can get along without help. I may be able to tell you of Mathilde's safe arrival before I mail this letter, as we expect to hear from her today or tomorrow. We are feeling very well, except Fritzchen, who had intermittent fever, but he was all right again after three days. Julius wrote you some time ago in addition to his two letters to the Vollmers mentioned above.

Fritzchen is getting along better, Carl learns surprisingly well and he is very industrious. He took private lessons twice a week for two months, and his teacher told me that he needs no more lessons, but he should continue to practice. Mathilde and Fritz grow comparatively faster than Carl. Mathilde weighed 94 lbs. and she measured exactly five feet one and seven-eighths inches when she left for Louisville. The long line is exactly one foot long¹ and

this line is one and seven-eighths inches. Take the long line five times and add the short line to it, and you get the exact present height of Mathilde. She is very strong for her age and somewhat chubby. Mother is getting a little stouter; she has to change her dresses, that is, she has to widen the sleeves mostly.

¹ We have not attempted to print this line one foot long, though Mr. Wulfing did so in his letter.

If you have not already written by the time you get this letter, please do so at once and answer my letter of May 12/13 and forward your answer by mail; it is better to use the mail as even the best opportunity causes delay, for a trip may be postponed, or people stay longer at different places. The postage fee to New York has been reduced to ten cents (four and one-half *Silbergroschen*) per letter in place of twenty-five cents (about ten *Silbergroschen*). We are very eager to hear if Pauck called on you. We have received no news from Valdorf. Carl intends to go to Germany next spring; we have learned that his beloved Hannchen enjoys a somewhat doubtful reputation. Schroder failed to get any information from August or Osnabrück in reference to the testaments of Gerding or his mother and he engaged a lawyer in Göttingen. Fritz and his wife are getting along well, and they expect an increase in their family about Christmas. Their little Gustavus Frederick—I am his godfather—is healthy and he amused his dear Aunt Christiane² immensely and kept her busy.

Judging from a letter which Pauck wrote to Fritz, our dear father, E. H. Schmieding, realized his injustice, and I am to get 240 *Taler* extra after his departure, for profit on the sale of the house; I do not know how he arrives at this figure. Pauck will bring all the papers along, and if the difference is not too much, I may be satisfied and settle the matter on this basis. Fritz advised August to marry again and to try to get a wife who is more economical. To find a wife should not be too difficult for a man in his position. My ankles are all right again since spring; we have many physicians here, some are quacks, but others are very good. August never notified us of his wife's death, we heard this through Father. We sent a letter of condolence, but have heard nothing from Valdorf since. Winter writes from time to time, Carl does not write at all, and we get a letter from Fritz at least every two weeks.

Our home is very plain, it is comfortable and pretty, and we are happy among ourselves and through ourselves, and through God's great love. We enjoy good health, we work, love each other, and enjoy our dear children. Our pastor told us the other day that it is a great pleasure to him to observe our mutual love for each other. It is very sad to read your report about our dear mother's condition, and if it were not for your sake, we should pray our Lord to relieve her of her great suffering.

I know of nothing that I could add to my last letter. Please

² Apparently when she was visiting them in Louisville.

give us some information about Lennep in regard to railroads, building, and construction work. Hearty greetings to our dear cousins in Lennep, Barmen, and Osnabrück, and to all who remember us in kindness. What do you think of the loan I wrote you about?

Hearty greetings and kisses to you and please answer soon.

Your
GUSTAVUS.

Postscript in German and in German script:

Dear Grandmother and Aunt Julia:

Father left space for me and wishes me to write a few lines to you. I should feel happy if I could be over there, as I have often heard that you have better schools, and I should like to be instructed in several subjects which are not taught over here. I am very fortunate in that my dear father teaches me many things. I am sorry to hear that you are so sick. I shall be confirmed next spring, and then I shall continue to study English and French, and later on I intend to work in another store.

Your loving grandson and nephew,
CARL WULFING.

October 30, 1845.

We have just received a letter from Fritz informing us that Mathilde arrived in Louisville safely. She is staying with Fritz for about a week, since Dr. Dunhoff is rebuilding his home at present, and the work is not yet completed. Hearty Farewell!

Cancellation stamps read: Le Havre, 28. Novembre, 1845 (Nov. 28).
St. Louis, Mo., November 1 (1845). Paris, 29. Novembre, 1845 (Nov. 29).
Letter arrived in Lennep December 2, 1845.

ST. LOUIS, MO., January 8, 1846.

Dearly beloved Mother and Sister:

A few days ago I had a letter from Mr. J. W. Hardt, from New York, with enclosures from his father and Julchen dated November 13, and two letters for Julius. The latter is all right and he is going to answer soon. Dear Julchen, I notice from your letter of November 13 that you wrote an important letter, as you call it, on October 26, and I hope that I may get this letter soon. We have had

severe winter weather until a week ago; the ice on the Mississippi broke today, and boats are beginning to navigate again. This has caused the mail to be irregular for two months; we expect to get your letter soon, unless it was lost on the ocean. Referring to the importance of your letter, let us assume in the meantime that you have made a decision concerning your future, and that you have either a favorable or an unfavorable reply pertaining to my inquiry about a loan. I am going to hold my letter for a while and will mail it as soon as I get yours of October 26.

Your letter to Julius is so loving and tender that it can be taken for a love letter; I should seal my letters if I were in your place. For example: "Greetings with heartfelt love from your J. W." It is somewhat out of the ordinary when a young girl shows her affection in such strong terms to a loving young man of twenty-one or twenty-two years, to say nothing about your exclamation: "Oh, my dear, dear Julius!"

You wrote Julius: "What do you say about A. Spicker and von Berg? The latter is not yet in order, I wonder if Sp. will go to America too." Friedrich wrote Julius: "You may have heard through the Wulfings' letter the details of Albert Spicker's failure and flight." We have heard nothing of this. I did not believe it possible that a stupid fellow like him could do such tricks. What else can we think except that Albert Spicker, the son of our Cousin Dan. Spicker, master-baker on Gänsemarkt in Lennep, is bankrupt, that he took everything worth taking and escaped to America to avoid arrest. "Von Berg is not yet in order," may mean that von Berg, son of our friend, Daniel von Berg, intended to take the trip with Hardt, but could not get ready on time. Your letter of October 26 may explain everything, and if not, we may hear it from Mr. Hardt. I wrote him in New York about the opportunities which exist here with reference to his line of business, and it is possible that he will come to St. Louis. We have heard nothing from Pauck direct. Winter wrote us on September 2 that Pauck does not intend to leave for some time; we hope he will go to Lennep. If Mr. Hardt comes to St. Louis, you should get better information about us through him than Pauck could give you, as Pauck has never been in St. Louis. It was not necessary to tell us to be kind to Mr. Hardt, and to show him St. Louis; my dear Julchen, it is understood that we do this as much as possible without being reminded.

My last letter was dated October 28 and I am confident that you have already received the same by this time. We thank you very much for the presents you sent by Mr. Hardt. A friend of mine,

a wholesale cloth merchant, will leave for New York tomorrow, and he promised to call on Mr. Hardt and give him all the information he wishes to get. He will include your package with his own shipment, and in this way it will reach us safely and with the smallest cost possible. You were right in not sending too much, and we appreciate the fact that you did not spend any money; we enjoy getting a present from our beloved ones, but we should not feel right about it if this should cause you great expense. We do not judge a present from your dear hands by its money value, we appreciate your love and your fine spirit and thoughtfulness. Ludwig Springmann could have called on Mr. Thorner a long time ago, as Mr. Thorner informed us as long ago as last summer of his safe arrival.

The other day I read a sermon: "Various Gifts but one Holy Spirit." It impressed on us never to stop praying urgently and repeatedly until our Lord yields to our wishes. This would place our Lord in the same position as we are, when we give something to a beggar in order to get rid of him, when he does not stop begging. Such ideas conflict with my way of thinking to such an extent that I dislike the whole book in spite of many good features in it. If parents refuse to grant a child's wish because they consider the fulfilment unwise, and they yield to the child in spite of their better judgment simply because the child continues to press irresistibly and does not stop crying, we should justly call this blind love and weakness; and parents are in the wrong if they refuse to fulfil a reasonable wish. Our good Lord grants our wishes when they are good for us, and we should never try to induce Him to do otherwise. A good father gives his children what they should have without their asking, and it does not seem right to teach us that we should urge our almighty and all-powerful God until He gets tired of listening and yields to our wishes. When we reduce eternity and unchangeableness to temporalities, it ceases to be eternal and unchangeable.

In another sermon I find the following sentence: "God's anger will come over you." Anger is a passion, and it is blasphemy to accuse our Creator of being passionate, when Jesus taught us: God is Love. Can love be angry? Do you believe it is possible that a man who possesses all the vices and sins could anger our Lord? I am certain that the devil himself cannot anger God; for if he could do this, the devil would have influence over our Lord. God created everything, and this includes the devil, and God has power over everything, as He is almighty. Many view divinity with human interpretations, that is, they attribute to God human failings. If the

Supreme Being had the same characteristics as a human being, he would not be supreme. When God causes us to suffer scarcity, famine, and pestilence, or any other misfortune, many ministers, who believe themselves pious, tell us: "God in His anger punishes sinful mankind," but they really should say: "God's love is so great that He punishes his children to draw them toward Him." A good father never punishes his children when he is angry, he punishes them for their own good so that they may better themselves. Why should God do otherwise?

I could continue to write about this page after page, and when I had stopped I should have to admit that I had only made a fair start. May our all-wise and omnipresent God—not the Jehovah of the Israelites, but the Father of all His children in heaven and on earth—shed the light of truth and knowledge upon us!

February 26, 1846.

Until today we have waited in vain for your letter of October 26, and we have heard nothing from Mr. Hardt. We have heard nothing from Mr. Spicker either. Pauck wrote last September that he would call on you before he left Germany, and that he had taken care of my matter with Father. We enjoy the best of health and we get good news from Mathilde. She writes: "I am getting tall and strong, enjoy a good appetite and have rosy cheeks, and I have an excellent opportunity to learn. When I am back in St. Louis, our dear mother must take good care of herself."

Mrs. Dunhoff sent word through Fritz that she is highly pleased with Mathilde. She has to work until 10 o'clock, sewing and knitting, and she is not allowed to be idle. She takes care of the kitchen one week after another. In spite of the fact that Mathilde is well satisfied and that she realizes how good it is for her to be with strange people, she longs for home and tries to cut down the time. Mother would give in, but I insist that she stay a complete year, as I am convinced this is best for her.

Carl's greatest wish is to learn as much as possible. He is going to be confirmed this Easter, and he has made up his mind to become a merchant. Fritz is progressing slowly; I believe that it would be best for him to learn a lucrative trade. I feel that he should choose something which suits his inclinations and his particular disposition.

Carl wrote from Quincy and notified us that his youngest child passed away at the age of two and one-half years. He is getting along fairly well, his wife gives music and sewing lessons, and he

takes care of the household. Fritz has a sickly wife who is trying to figure out all day what would be the best thing to start with, and she never accomplishes anything, but they are getting along well.

We have had a severe winter with a sharp cold of long duration, and this has caused business to be poor. Our greatest happiness is our mutual love and the fact that every one of us is enjoying good health. Von Berg and the firm in Elberfeld will have to wait a little longer until conditions get better. Hearty greetings to our dear cousins and all our relatives, and please write soon again. We had a letter from the Winters, of Bünde. Winter wants to know if he could send a second son over here, and I answered him promptly. I believe that he intends to send the boys over, and later on, when both boys are established, and when Father has passed away and the inheritance is settled, he and his family will come to America too. Pauck won his law suit against his stepbrother, both the original suit and also the appeal. Please give me the address of Wm. Lehmann and write something about my old school friends, for example, Conrad Roentgen, Eduard Oellermann, Carl Hager, Richard and Daniel O., Peter Moll, Gustav Holterhoff, and give us some news from Lennep, as I am afraid that Mr. Hardt will not come to St. Louis.

Many hearty greetings from all of us.

Your loving son and brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Your letter of October 26 has not arrived yet and it may be lost; however, Pauck's letter of September reached us only a few days ago. Do not burden Pauck with too many things, as a trip from Lennep to St. Louis is very troublesome. Winter sent us a dozen *Schützenkuchen*. We appreciate the fine spirit, for he intended to please us, but he overlooked the fact that there are more than 3000 miles of ocean between us, and that the distance from New Orleans to St. Louis is about 1000 miles, not to mention the mileage in Germany.

Farewell, and keep us in kind memory.

Your
GUSTAVUS.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., February 27 (1846).

Le Havre, 9. Avril, 1846 (April 9, 1846).

Paris, 10. Avril, 1846 (April 10, 1846).

Letter arrived in Lennep April 12, 1846.

SAINT LOUIS, MO., May 20, 1846.

Dearly beloved Sister Julia:

The notice of our dear mother's departure touched us deeply, though we expected to hear this long ago. We are very sorry, as we realize that her death is a severe loss to you. We thank our Lord that He fulfilled mother's wish to relieve her of her sufferings and troubles. She endured much for many years, and you have every reason to be grateful to our Lord that He allowed her to remain with you so long. I have often thought that according to our human way of thinking God might have relieved her long ago. We fully appreciate the fact that it is easier for us to see her go than for you, as you were with Mother to the very last. The many years of separation and the great distance placed us in a different position, but it increased the value of your faithful and untiring responsibilities. We could do nothing for our dear mother; we mourn in silence and keep her in loving memory. There is no doubt that she is reunited with her loved ones in heaven; let us find consolation in this thought, and, may she rest in peace!

My dear Julchen, with reference to your future I know of nothing else to say except to call your attention to my letter of May 13 of last year, and I can only repeat its contents. At all events we should be pleased to hear from you soon and often as to how you are feeling and what arrangements you have made. A short time ago I had a letter from Mr. Henry Hardt from New York wherein he informed me that he intends to come to St. Louis by the end of May. I answered immediately and asked him to stop in Louisville, and to bring our Mathilde back to us, who has been in Louisville for the past seven months. I shall hold this letter until both are here so that I may notify you of their safe arrival. You will get first-hand information through Mr. Hardt regarding ourselves and our way of living, and this may aid you in making your decision for the future.

I also wrote to Mr. Engelbert Hardt to be so kind as to use his influence to get an allowance on the house in Elberfeld, so that this matter may be settled. How about the von Bergs; did they make a settlement, or did they become bankrupt? Please give me all the information you can in regard to this; copy for me whatever you may find in the paper, or mail the paper to me. I am sorry that I cannot raise the money in Germany. Did Ludwig Springer call on Thorner?

Julius asked me to transmit his heartiest greetings to you, and also to his uncle and aunt. He has joined the army, he is happy

and healthy enough to brave the privations which are ahead of him. He belongs to the Texas Volunteer Corps, and the captain is a friend of mine and also of Julius. The captain and the second lieutenant promised me to take special care of him. The noble-hearted captain Koch kept his word by making Julius his personal attendant. Besides the two officers there are several of our good friends in the company, for example, Henry Gildehaus, of Osna-brück, Fred Meister, of Bielefeld, Kockritz, of Batavis, Bollhovener, of Bielefeld; Herman Schroder joined the regiment also, but he is in a different company. Julius will leave for Texas, where we are at war with Mexico. He promised to write us as soon as possible, and I am going to mail his letter to you. Please address your letters for Julius to me and I shall forward them. I might mention that I envy Julius more than I pity him, and that I would not stay at home if I had not a higher duty to perform toward my wife and my children. Julius is with faithful friends, who are willing to risk their lives, one for all and all for one. His officers and comrades like him well, he has strength and courage, and there is no cause for worry. I envy him to a certain extent; I have made inquiries respecting the present war with Mexico, and about Julius' position in reference to his officers and comrades, and can safely say that I have good reason to congratulate him. May good luck and God's blessing be with him and the Texas Volunteer Corps!

I have heard of Albert Spicker that he went with a disreputable woman from Holland to New Orleans and left her in the lurch. He had plenty of money but squandered it fast, and they say that he lives in Galveston, Texas, now; I have never heard from him direct. For his highly respected parents' sake I had hoped that he would come to St. Louis. He intended to do so, but mentioned to others that he did not wish to meet his cousin in St. Louis, as he did not want to hear reproaches and preferred to go to Texas, where nobody knew him. If I hear more of him, I shall write you about it.

My last letter was dated February 26 and it was my answer to your letter of November 13; since then I have had your letters of October 26 and April 3. Schroder left a debt of \$800.00, and his whole conduct was such that people looked with contempt upon him.

I trust that Pauck has called on you by now. When Mathilde left, she was one and one-half inches shorter than her mother, she writes now that she is stronger and taller than her mother. We shall send a letter from Dr. von Dunhoff to you through Mr. Hardt

so that you may read for yourself what he has to say about our Mathilde. We are really happy to see her come back so soon. In the fall Carl will enter a good store as apprentice. Every one of us is enjoying the best of health, and we are well satisfied. Julius wrote his uncle a short time ago, but he did not know at that time that he would join the army.

Heartiest greetings to our dear cousins in Barmen, and please transmit our sincere thanks for their condolence and great love which they showed to our beloved mother and to us. Also heartiest greetings to Burcher, Mrs. Heydorn, and all other relatives.

Many emigrants come here from Bielefeld, Bünde, Valdorf and vicinity, but I have never met one who came from Lennep; I take it for granted that they do not emigrate. Please ask Mr. Engelhardt if he received my letter, find out if he is willing to fulfil my wish, and write me about this soon.

May 25, 1846.

Yesterday, on Sunday, May 24, Mr. Hardt and Mathilde arrived here safely, and Mathilde is strong and well, and she had a nice letter of praise from Madame Dunhoff.

Mr. Hardt seems to think that it would be better for you to stay in Germany. The ocean trip may be too strenuous for you. He doubts very much that you could give up old customs and habits, as they have become your second nature, and he feels certain that you could never be happy if you were compelled to give them up. I have written you repeatedly that living conditions are entirely different in this country.

I am mailing this letter today, May 26, 1846, and Mr. Hardt intends to leave tomorrow. We are highly pleased that he called on us, and we did our very best to make his visit as pleasant as possible. We are going to see Adam Nohl, the brother of Carl Nohl, today. Please write us soon and accept heartiest greetings from all of us, particularly from your brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Mr. Hardt tells us that he does not intend to return to Germany within two years, so I did not give him the above mentioned letter from Madame Dunhoff.

I am convinced that my brother-in-law, Winter, of Bünde, will come to America sooner or later. How is August; do you hear from him occasionally?

You might have mentioned the Fuhrmann love affair, and also the installation of gas lights.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., May 27 (1846).

Le Havre, 3. Juillet, 1846 (July 3, 1846).

Paris, 4. Juillet, 1846 (July 4, 1846).

ST. LOUIS, MO., September 4, 1846.

Dearly beloved Julia:

I wrote you last on May 20 in answer to your letter of October 26, which arrived after a long delay. On July 7 I received your kind letter of May 19, which required no reply, as I wrote about this in my last letter.

With reference to the sale of the house I cannot advise you very well; I am not sufficiently familiar with existing conditions in Lennep. I think it is wrong to wait for better times, as times are never really bad in Lennep. When conditions in Lennep are bad, they hurt the poor and the working class most, and these people are never in a position to buy a house even in good times. It is more a matter of good luck and not so much the question of waiting for the right time. If, e. g., the Merchant Association wishes to build a new merchants' exchange, the location would be wrong; if Burcher intends to buy the house, the location would be right; and if he offers a reasonable price, it would be the right time, and I would sell to Burcher. At any rate, if I were in your position I would commission a reliable friend to make the sale, perhaps Arnold Hardt.

Do not forget to let me know everything you may hear about the von Bergs. I have paid my obligations to the firm in Elberfeld and I expect to get an acknowledgment shortly. It will take some time before I can accumulate more funds. Mr. Hardt is trying to get a loan for me in New York; I hope he succeeds in this. I believe that he wrote you in regard to the building lots, and his letter may give you the assurance that there is no cause to feel uneasy. Did the von Bergs offer a settlement or are they bankrupt? We heard that their condition was very bad.

Has Pauck called on you by this time? Father wrote that he had adjusted the matter in regard to the house with Pauck; I may have to wait until Pauck gets back before I hear more about it. Do you intend to stay in Lennep when the house is sold? I presume that Mr. Hardt wrote you his opinion about the matter. We

should be highly pleased if you should come; we offer you a home, and we should do everything in our power to make life comfortable for you. It is true, many of your wishes will never be realized, but this also will be the case if you remain in Germany. I am confident that you would not suffer want in this country; however, I do not wish to influence you one way or the other.

We appreciate it very much that all our cousins are so kind to you. Do not ask Clärchen any more about the loan. Do you know if Clärchen and Lottchen have made a will and testament? If not, Dorf Müller will be their only heir as far as I know. I think it is well to keep the *Gartenfeld*, at least until the railroad has made a decision. We have heard nothing further about Spicker. Mr. Nohl, Carl Nohl's brother, has married a highly respected widow with five children.

Carl entered a wholesale hardware store as an apprentice on July 20; his employers are pleased with him and Carl likes it well. He leaves at five A. M., has breakfast and dinner with his employer, comes home for supper, and sleeps at home; he is earning one hundred dollars the first year. We enjoy good health and are well satisfied. My beloved Christelchen and Mathilde send extra greetings to you, also the boys. Please extend our heartfelt greetings to our dear cousins.

Julius was honorably discharged from army service yesterday, he will live in New Orleans, where he has secured a nice position. My brother-in-law Fritz paid us a visit with wife and children; they are getting along all right. We are very eager to see Pauck come back, as we expect to get much news and many interesting reports. Please write us often and tell us how you are, how you have established yourself, and how the sale of the house is progressing, etc. I trust that Mr. Hardt or Mr. Helga will take care of the sale.

Farewell, my dear Julchen, may God protect you and all of us. Keep us in loving memory and write soon. Please give us some news about Lennep. How are Conrad Roentgen, Wm. Strohn, the pretty boy, etc.? Did Aurora Haddenbrock get married and Lenchen Brugmann? How are the many other friends of 1825 to 1830, e. g., Burcher, H. Schumacher, Eduard, Richard and Daniel Oellermann, Carl Erkelburg, Carl von Berg, Carl Hager, Minchen Ringel, Benjamin Frowein, Paul Engel and family, Marie Stein, Math. Wirth, Wm. Lehmann, Gustav Holterhoff, Peter Moll, Louis Moll, etc.?

Once again hearty greetings from all of us, particularly from

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

ST. LOUIS, MO., February 4, 1847.

Dear Sister Julia:

Received your kind letter of September 26 with enclosure, and I forwarded your letter for Julius immediately to New Orleans. Julius acknowledged receipt and told me that he had written Friedrich, and that he intended to write you soon.

With reference to Julius' becoming a soldier, I consider it troublesome and also useless to try to prove to you that it is nonsense to call Frederick William IV his rightful king, and to speak of Prussia as his fatherland. What do you mean by fatherland—the Duchy of Berg, which has ceased to exist, or Rhenish Prussia, or the German States, or do you mean Europe?¹ For your information I wish to say that Julius has the good fortune and the honor to be a free citizen of the free United States of North America, and he has had the still greater honor of defending his adopted country.

Dearly beloved Julchen, I love you very much and I intend to continue loving you. I understand your views even when I am convinced that the opposite of your idea is correct, as I realize that I might have the same ideas if I had remained in Germany. Since I have had different experiences, you should not feel hurt about my having different ideas. If Carl had been twenty years old in place of only 14, he would not have stayed at home. I am pleased that Julius has secured a nice position which enables him to save enough so that he can start his own business in a few years. He is feeling all right and he is well satisfied. We correspond frequently, and I am writing him today. Whether he is going to stay in New Orleans or not depends on how he can stand the heat next summer; it will be best to send letters for him to my address.

¹ Mr. Gustavus Wulfing, who was born in the Duchy of Berg, felt that a German had no fatherland. The lack of harmony was greatly deplored by all Germans who had an understanding for the finer things of life. There were two outstanding reasons which kept the Germans divided. One was religion and the other was jealousy between Austria and Prussia as to the leadership. The rulers of Austria were at the same time Emperors of Germany. Austria did not wish Prussia to be too powerful, and on the other hand the Prussians did not want a Catholic Emperor. Franz I abdicated as Emperor of Germany in 1806, but he remained the Emperor of Austria. For sixty-five years each German State shifted for itself without giving due consideration to other German States, or to the country as a whole. These conditions became gradually intolerable. A new German Empire was established in 1871. The King of Prussia was proclaimed German Emperor (not Emperor of Germany) by the heads of all German States, and Germany—with the exception of Austria—became again a political unit. This solution gave the German people a united fatherland, but it did not bring harmony.

I had a letter from Pauck the other day. He wrote from Cincinnati that he did not go to Lennep. He mentioned that he had asked you to send letters, etc. to him, and that you had answered that everything was already on its way to America. He stated that Father gave me credit for 330 *Taler*, and he would mail all papers as soon as the river navigation opens up. If this is correct, then the whole matter is settled, and this proves that I was right, as they would not have given in if it were otherwise. This pleases us for three reasons: 1) Three hundred and thirty *Taler* is a substantial sum; 2) the correctness of my reasoning; and 3) re-establishment of peace and harmony. Pauck transmitted fairly intelligent letters from Father and August, in which they refrained from insulting us, and this is a great gain in itself.

My brother-in-law Carl always wrote at rare intervals, but now for some time our pleasant relationship has been somewhat impaired, as I had advised him not to marry Hannchen. His married life became unbearable and they separated after many unusually sad experiences for Carl. He and his daughter Anna—by his first marriage—now live with Fritz in Louisville and Hannchen remained in Quincy.

Pauck has realized also that I was right when I advised him twelve years ago in Germany in regard to the 3000 *Taler*, which were willed to his children. I have heard that he returned from Germany just as poor as he was when he went, and that he did not pay his lawyer. This may be talk and it may not be correct; however, I am inclined to believe that it is true, as I consider Pauck well able to do such tricks. These are sad conditions, and I am glad that they do not concern my family directly. Keep this information to yourself and do not talk to others about it. We are well and getting along all right. We are building a house, which will be ready by the end of May, and I enclose a drawing for your information. May our good Lord bless this enterprise and may He help us to get out of debt soon. The building lots are advancing; the lot on which we are building cost \$250.00 but it is worth \$1500.00. Our other lots are in the same neighborhood, they have a front of 280 feet, they cost us \$717.00, and we are offered \$1500.00 already, but we do not wish to sell as yet.

Our children bloom and flourish, and it is a real pleasure to see them. Mathilde is tall and strong, but I believe that she is still growing. She has passed her childhood years; she enjoys dancing and she likes to work. She is strong enough to get married, but I trust that she will use good judgment and wait a few years. One thing is cer-

tain: She is healthy, and whoever marries her will get an excellent wife and a good housekeeper.

Carl likes his job very much and his employers are well pleased with him. He is fourteen and a half years old, is as tall as Julius, and still growing; I do not doubt that he will be taller than I am. Carl is my pride, his diligence and his eagerness to learn are just as great as formerly. He will be a handsome and slender young man, and his big blue eyes will make an impression on the girls in about ten years. Fritzchen is already thirteen years old and he is tall and strong for his age; he is progressing slowly but steadily. Christiane is well preserved, she looks ten years younger than her age and she is highly pleased. I am well satisfied too, only my waist line is gone, I weigh 212 lbs., and everything tastes good to me. I am pleased with myself, with my beloved Christelchen, with my darling children, with God's great kindness and love, with our good health, and whatever else our good Lord bestows upon us.

In about four to six weeks our neighbor, Mrs. Meyer, a widow, will return to her home town, Osnabrück. She intends to travel via New Orleans, and Julius has promised to assist her in getting a good ship. She has assured me that she will call on the Springmanns and tell them as much as possible about us. This should not be hard for her, as she was our next-door neighbor for many months. We have heard nothing from Mr. Hardt, of New York, recently. Spicker was cheated out of all his money in Texas, and nobody seems to know what became of him. A. Nohl, brother of Carl Nohl, married a widow with four or five children. She is very amiable and a wonderful housekeeper; she was the wife of Dr. Puete, of Werb, between Unna and Soest, and everybody praises her as a model housewife. He has turned out to be a respectable gentleman, though there was a time when you could not say that about him. If you get an opportunity to see his brother, give him my best regards.

Our heartfelt greetings to our dear cousins, and tell them that we think of them often. When the children are grown up, we two "old ones" will take a pleasure trip to Germany, but we do not intend to stay in Germany, as we give St. Louis preference over our old Lennep. I do not wish to hurt your feelings, my dear Julchen, but we are true patriots and we have learned to love our adopted fatherland. We think of F. W. R. No. 3 (Frederick William III. *Rex*) seldom and less of No. 4. We are grateful to our Lord, who led us to this prosperous and free country. Three cheers for liberty! ! ! ! !

Now, my dear Julchen, how are you, and have you adjusted yourself to God's will and His wise dispensation? How about the sale

of the house? I think of you often and I believe that it is better that you stay over there; but there are times when I think if Julchen were here she would have no worries. I have made up my mind not to write any more about this, simply because I cannot advise you, and I do not know which solution is best. By the way, we should have a letter from you by this time; why should we write less often when we know that writing to each other is a joy to both of us. Please write in detail how you are living and how you are getting along. How are the von Bergs, and what are my old friends doing? How is Conrad Roentgen? Are his parents still living? How are our dear cousins?

If it were not for the fact that I have such big children, I should hardly believe that I am forty-five years old. I am as lively and gay as I was in 1830 and I thank God for this, for a cheerful and jolly disposition is the greatest blessing in life. When reflecting how much we have had to experience from the time of our early youth till now, we have to admit that we can stand a whole lot with the aid of our Lord. When I forget past sufferings, when I am glad that I have overcome them, and when I recall and re-enjoy the happiness I have felt, then my heart fills with emotion and gratitude toward our Creator for His great kindness, and a pleasant and sincere feeling of appreciation enters my mind, even if I do not express this in words. When I am in such high spirits, and when I think of my beloved Christiane and of my dear, dear children, I am compelled of necessity to interrupt and to walk to and fro in order to collect my thoughts and to calm and compose myself. May God, who is a loving Father to all of us, continue to have mercy on us, and may He reunite us at some future time!

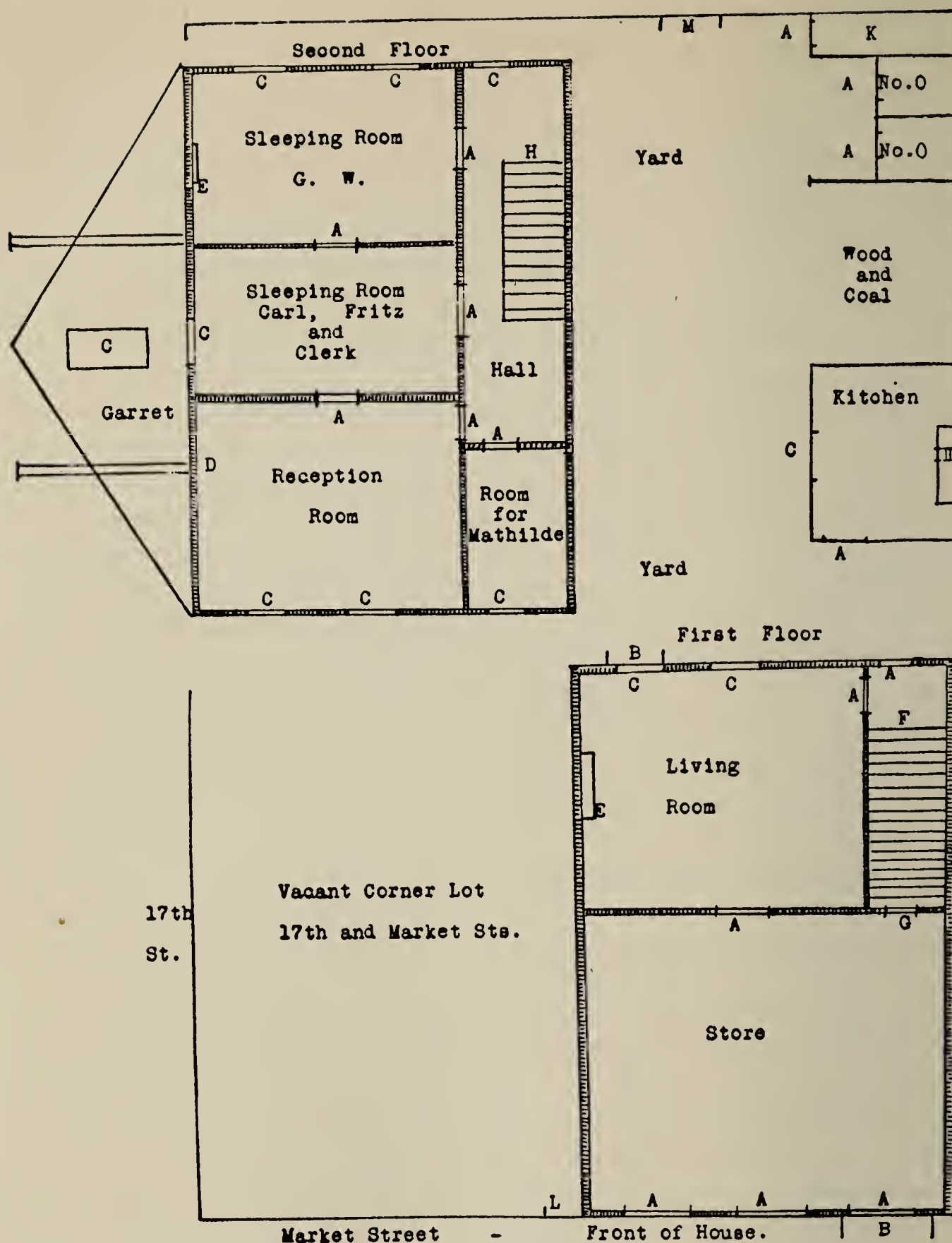
Carl's children by his second marriage have passed away, and this is a blessing under existing circumstances. I am somewhat curious to know if August intends to get married again. Might it be that he will ask Dorchen to become his wife? Have our cousins given up all hopes? Greetings to Burcher and to Dr. Spicker. Tell the latter to advise his son to come to St. Louis, provided he hears from him. I shall be glad to do everything I can for the son for his dear old father's sake. Is the *County News* still in existence?

I heard a few days ago that the Winters of Bünde intend to come to America in a few years. Do you hear anything about this?

Farewell, my dear Julchen; innumerable hearty greetings from Christiane, Mathilde, and the boys to you and our dear cousins. Please write us soon and keep us in kind memory.

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.



- A. Doors.
- B. Trap-doors to basement.
- C. Windows.
- D. Chimney for stove pipes.
- E. Chimney for fireplace.
- F. Stairs to basement and above them stairs to second floor.

- G. Door to basement.
- H. Stairs to garret.
- I. Hearth in German style.
- K. Stable, 16 ft. long, 10 ft. wide.
- L. Front entrance to the yard.
- M. Gateway to the yard.
- No. O. Water closets.

The building lot has 50 feet on Market Street and 140 feet on Seventeenth Street. The house has a frontage of 25 feet on Market Street and is 37 feet deep, with a basement under the entire house. It is a brick building; the lower story is 10 feet high and the upper story 9 feet. The outbuildings are frame buildings. Everything must be finished by the end of May, and the keys must be turned over to me at that time.

The house cost \$1315.00, or 2025 Prussian *Taler*, including outbuildings and a fence of boards around the entire lot, 50 feet in front and rear, and 140 feet on each side. The ground cost \$250.00, but it is worth \$1500.00.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., February 5 (1847).

Le Havre, 2. Avril, 1847 (April 2, 1847).

Lennepe, April 6 (1847).

SANTA FE, December 6, 1846.

Dear Wulfing:

Your letter gave me immense pleasure. It came like a refreshing thunderstorm after a drought of several months. Your god-given humor amused not only my friends Mink, Flohr, and me, but Johanning and many other friends, whom we told about it; and several of your "wise cracks" went the rounds all over Santa Fe.

You inquire about what we are doing. Well, I see I have to start from the time when I left the *Tribune*. End of September I was ordered to report at Grassing Ground Delgado, where I stayed until October 31. Delgado is about fifteen miles from here and beautifully located, and I spent five pleasant weeks there, passing the time with riding, hunting, and walking. I spent many delightful hours with several noble Mexican families of Spanish descent, who live in this neighborhood. On some evenings we had fandango parties with enticing girls. A fandango in the country is far more attractive than in the city. In the first place, it is not crowded with soldiers, and secondly, the girls are more solid, that is more compact, on account of the invigorating country air.

I disliked to leave Delgado, but the horses were ordered to Bent's Farm, and Lieutenant Johanning and I came here on November 2, and took quarters in a house, which we arranged comfortably in accordance with our taste. We have a joint menage and live like *caballeros*. The soldiers lodge in barracks and they are packed like herring. Almost every one is complaining all day about Santa Fe

being a monotonous nest. For my part I amuse myself divinely—the days pass like minutes, and this may be the main reason why I have not written before; quite frequently I made up my mind to write tomorrow surely, but I did not get to it. I am certain you will forgive me, and you will transmit my apology to our other friends, when I assure you that an excessive desire possessed me to learn the Spanish language. Of all the languages I know, it is undoubtedly the noblest, clearest, and richest language; it is true music to my ears. You will see that I am learning Spanish more quickly and better than English. My whole room is filled with Spanish books; I read all day long and I speak Spanish at night—in my dreams.

Occasionally some one knocks at my door and *Caballero Don Augusto* is most cordially invited to smoke a *cigarito* with *Signora* or *Signorita* so-and-so. I get up, wrap myself in my domino, and hasten to the *palacio* of the waiting beauty. All women are emancipated in this country. They are resting on their divans like the ladies of the Orient, smoke *cigaritos*, and read Don Quixote. I enter: "*Mia alma, mi curazon, mi guerido,*" I hear in a yearning whisper—what a pity that all of a sudden our awful bugler, Casper Schlumpf, sounds reveille! Torn away from Morpheus' arms and sweet dreams of love, I rush—as a good artilleryman should—upon my cannon—boots and sabre, and hurry through the raw morning air to report for duty.

Our names are called, nine men for guard duty, ten men to erect works of defense, ten men to the sawmill, eight to the woods, three men on police duty, twenty men on the sick list, and about just as many on kitchen duty, twelve men to take care of the horses on Bent's farm—in short, there is work for everybody; and we fortunate superiors wrap ourselves in the toga of our dignity, and we are happy inwardly that we do not have to drill because there are no soldiers left.

In the evening the whole battalion reports for dress parade on the Plaza, presents arms to Major Clark, listens to a fairly good band, and returns to the barracks for supper. Then Flohr and Mink call on us, and the arguments start. God is great, but we have to listen to all kinds of nonsense. One fellow raves about yellow stripes, the other prefers red ones. Major Clark maintains that as artillerymen we have to have red stripes on our trousers, and Captain Fischer prefers the yellow stripes, and he threatens with arrest everyone who takes the yellow stripes off. In spite of this, Lieutenant Johanning wears red stripes, as he prefers to be on good terms with Clark; I cannot blame him for that. *Chacun a son gout!*—I am going to stay neutral and I intend to wear a red stripe on my right side and a yel-

low stripe on my left, and in this way I can turn to the side from which the wind blows.

Tomorrow Lieutenant Kribben will leave with ten men from our company. They will join a command of a hundred men under Colonel Mitchell, with orders to proceed to Chihuahua to establish communications with General Wool. It is possible that they will never get there, as Wool may send dispatchers; at any rate, it is an unpleasant trip, and our horses are in a bad condition. Thank God, my white horse is all right. A great number of our horses have died, and in my opinion most of them will go to the deuce this winter. Uncle Sam not only kept the soldiers waiting for their pay, but he also failed to make provisions for food and sustenance for his fine horses. Money is extremely scarce, and most of the boys run into debt with the sutler, who charges \$1.25 for a pint of brandy. All the officers receive their pay and they have a good time. The private soldiers hunger, thirst, curse, and lie down to die. You can see them being carried away every day.

Our company endures the hardships best. It is true, a great number look run down, but no one has died so far. To be sure, a critical time is coming now, and this may give a finishing blow to many. Captain Fischer has written a comedy, he reads it to everybody, and he wants it performed at our next meeting. If we survive this we shall have good reason to thank our Lord. You may have heard of the dissensions between officers and companies. The whole matter disgusts me and I take no part in it; they may do what they want as long as they keep away from me. I opposed the "old man" from the beginning like a man and without resentment, in the prairie as well as here, and I have the satisfaction that he treats the company with consideration. He knows my opposition is not directed against his person, and that I stand for the principles of humanity. He treats me with the greatest respect, and he aims to regain the confidence of the company. Of course the fact that we are going to return in a few months, and also politics, may have something to do with it.

The war events continue in their old jog trot. We do not even know if Wool is approaching Chihuahua. Several Mexican captains told us that General Martines is approaching Chihuahua with an army of 11,000 men, and that Santa Ana declared he would fight to the last Mexican before giving up one quarter of a mile. We shall see!

For the present, we have constructed an excellent fort, which will enable us to hold Santa Fe, and we have about 3000 soldiers at our disposal. Donaphan's regiment is skirmishing with the Navajos,

and he can come quickly to our aid. It is my private opinion that this section will *never* remain a part of the United States. When the army leaves next year, it will be easy to start a revolt, and they may use our fort against us. The language and religion make a nation, all other frontiers are makeshifts of map scrawlers. The Mexicans will never learn English, nor will they give up their Catholic religion. And this may be better than becoming Methodists. At any rate our invasion was beneficial to the people; they learned much, and it shook them out of their lethargy. Herder said somewhere, "War is a medicine," and this way shows clearly that he was right.

I told Mink I would not write to you, and that he should do it, and this induced him to write in spite of his well-known laziness. For this reason you will get two letters. Hearty greetings to your kind wife and to Miss Mathilde, to Carl and the little rascal. It is a great pleasure to recall the many pleasant hours which I spent in your home, and I hope to meet you all again and in the best of health.

With next time I shall write more.

Your friend,
AUG. DE MARK.

Special greetings to Koch, Meister, Tegeler, C. Meyer, Gildehaus, Hallbrok, Schwarz, Hippo, Noel and wife, and so on.

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO, December 7, 1846.

The letter of September 25 from our dear Uncle Wulfing, which arrived the day before yesterday, pleased us immensely. Your letter is a sure proof that you take an interest in our welfare; it is the only letter we have received from our friends up till now. We have been looking forward to this event with eager expectation for a long time. Your wonderful humor has remained with you in spite of the fact that conditions in St. Louis are bad. Your funny remarks about the warminded amused us immensely, and we could hardly continue reading on account of laughter. It is a pity that such insignificant reasons prevented our great hero from joining us.

We had given up all hopes of ever hearing from our friends, and we were wondering if we had to find out for ourselves if the great defenders of Matamoros escaped the dangers of war with their skins whole. I am glad to hear that they returned safely; that each of them experienced something, and that, if they did not benefit by this experience, it did not hurt them either; and we shall experience the same. Shortage of money forces us to useless laziness; we are really

tired of this and we wish to go back to St. Louis. De Mark, Flohr, and I pass the time studying. We can find entertainment enough, as we have never been so down and out that we had to pass up amusements which can be obtained with money. It is a real surprise to me that the soldiers do not die of weariness. Men can stand much.

Health conditions are fairly good in our company compared with conditions in other companies; nobody has died, but many—and I was one of them—have been very sick. We are greatly indebted to our Dr. Lutty, who takes an untiring interest in our welfare, and whose skilful treatment prevents calomel poisoning. It is seldom that one of us is sent to the hospital. Any one who has landed in this murder institution, and who is stupid enough to swallow only one-twelfth of their medicaments, is practically dead. Only a patient who has been in these moving establishments has a conception of the expeditionary efficiency of the doctors.

I have not received a single line from Meister. In spite of the fact that he promised you to write, he must have failed to do it, and I regret this very much, as later letters may not reach us any more. For months we have been without a German-language paper; I hardly think that friend Benkendorf neglects sending them, but I am inclined to believe that the infamous natives destroy all papers on which they can lay their hands. Please tell Benkendorf to send all papers for de Mark in a sealed envelope, in care of Major Clark, Commander Battalion Light Artillery, Missouri Volunteers, via Fort Leavenworth. This is safer, and they will be forwarded with official mail. Benkendorf should write to de Mark direct, as agreed, if he wishes to get further reports from him.

De Mark is less disposed to write than formerly; I had to ask him several times to answer your letter, but the mean fellow does not want to write. He says: "The art of silence requires a certain skill, and at the same time it gives me time to practice Spanish, so that I can talk to the ladies." What he really means is, it gives him time to call on the ladies. His relations with the captain are again excellent, and he has no cause to complain about his assigned duties; he has time to roam and to hunt up words in a dictionary, and he makes good use of this.

De Mark is learning Spanish fast, and he knows how to entertain the ladies. At the present time he is paying court with great success to the richest, most interesting, and most distinguished—I cannot say most virtuous—widow of New Mexico. Senora Tula is really a most remarkable lady, and de Mark will acquire great knowledge through her. Her apartments are frequented by the polite world of

Santa Fe—by the Governor and officers. She is the lady who made a loan of several thousand dollars to our army. She furnishes the best biographies and the most accurate character delineations of all the Mexican generals and presidents. Armigo, Martinez, Paredor, Santa Ana, and many others were her personal friends. De Mark is collecting all sorts of memoranda, which he may, or may not, publish later on. I do not doubt that she, like most Mexican ladies, will give him something to think of. May he enjoy his good fortune.

If he does not write, he will doubtless find a way to make up for this, but I doubt that he will pass up this opportunity. He tells me he does not like to write about the conditions in our company. If he should write the truth about our officers, he might get himself into trouble, and most of the men in our company do not deserve that he should make enemies for himself on their account. He adds that because he could not hold his tongue, he received a blow which threw him from Leipzig to Santa Fe, and it is likely that a second blow might throw him into the Pacific Ocean. He is not altogether wrong when he hesitates to publish something about our company in the *Tribune*, as he would be foolish to sacrifice himself for most of the boys. It is best to let such matters take care of themselves. This may sound selfish, but the devil cares!

Since my last letter Captain Fischer has changed remarkably. The brutal Prussian non-commissioned officer has become one of the best captains in the world, and he owes this happy change to de Mark and me. He is beginning to become popular again with the company, he is trying to please the men, and he does everything he can for them; he even lets Lieutenant Johanning alone. If he is smart he will keep this up, as our return to St. Louis is not so far off. He discontinued tormenting the men with roll calls, parades, and drills, but he harasses them now with his literary products. Just fancy, he wrote a comedy which he wants played on a stage especially erected for this purpose.

I may be gone by the time the performance is given, and I consider this fortunate, as several became sick, when the play was read; and I am certain that some will die of laughter when the comedy is actually performed. Nobody should be surprised that the captain and I have made up again after our difficulties were settled. My resignation has been finally accepted; I gave sickness as a reason, but my real reason is that I am tired of army life. It consists of nothing but left or right-about turn, guard duty, erecting forts or saw-mills, going without dinner at times, everlasting association with common fellows, and continuous wrangling with fellow-officers—I

cannot exclude Johanning—of whom one is meaner and more disgusting than the next one. Now I shall be able to carry out my favorite plan of traveling through Old Mexico.

By submitting my resignation I shall get not only my salary, which is reduced to \$7.00 per month, but also a credit of \$12.50 per month for using my own horse. In addition, my traveling expenses from St. Louis to Fort Leavenworth, and from here to St. Louis will be refunded, partly in currency, and partly in a check on a bank in St. Louis, all of which amounts to a nice sum. My horse disappeared from the pasture ground. I filed a claim for this loss, and also for forage; on account of the great distance we are compelled to take care of our horses ourselves. The whole army is eagerly awaiting the decision of Congress with regard to this, as it is expected that all the horses will die this winter on account of lack of food, or at least that they will not be fit for the return trip. And this will constitute a severe loss.

At the end of this month, or at the beginning of next month I shall leave with Dr. Massure, who invited me to travel with him as companion free of charge; therefore, I ask you to address letters in care of Bensick & Co., New Orleans, as I expect to arrive there in May or June. The trip itself will not only be most interesting, but it will be pleasant also. Dr. Massure is a Frenchman, and consequently a charming gentleman and companion; furthermore, he travels with two wagons and two servants, and he is a bon vivant. He promised me that I should share everything with him on this trip, with no expense whatsoever for me, not even for a bottle of wine. I would be a jackass if I did not accept such an offer, though a trip like this is not without danger. Dr. Massure intends to travel via El Paso del Norte, Chihuahua, Mexico City, Vera Cruz, New Orleans to St. Louis.

I can give you no war news except that a detachment of 100 men under command of Colonel Mitchel with Lieutenant Kribben and Captain Hudson left for Chihuahua today, probably to establish communication with General Wool's army. It is doubtful if they will go as far as Chihuahua, as they have orders to return here. We do not even know if General Wool is in Chihuahua or not; we know nothing about Kearney either, who went to California with a great number of his dragoons, as you may have heard. Our latest news comes from St. Louis. I am certain that this scandalous war will be over soon; in my opinion Santa Ana is a mercenary and acting for the United States. Why should our Secretary of War ask for two million dollars and begin peace negotiations at the same time? How

could Santa Ana pass unchecked through the American fleet? Why shouldn't he take a few military measures and win a battle, in which one-half of an American and one-quarter of a Mexican are killed; what harm is done by this? Fair pretenses are a part of the game, and without this how could he conclude a peace honorably, which would satisfy at the same time the greediness of the Americans, even if they lose some money? What an unfortunate policy for a great Republic! What would Washington or Jefferson say about this?

Koch and his vigorous demonstrations pleased me very much. Such disclosures shake the Germans out of their dreams and urge them on to vote; therefore, he was right to raise such a rumpus. I almost forgot to mention that de Mark and Flohr prefer to travel through Mexico, if it can be done, and that they do not wish to return through the prairie. General Kearney has a good opinion of de Mark, and he may make this possible.

I enclose a letter to Benkendorf which I started some time ago; you may see by this that I did not lack good will. Hearty greetings to our good friends, such as Meister, Tegeler, Koch, Gildehaus, and Biermann, not to forget Hippo. Oh! how I will guzzle it down, if I ever get hold of his beer; I must not even think of it, as the mere thought makes me thirsty.

Transmit my regards to Louis Schwarz and tell him the contents of this letter. Tomorrow I am going to try once more to induce de Mark to write.

With kindest regards to your worthy family, with a hearty farewell, and hopes of seeing you soon, I greet you in esteem and friendship.

Sincerely yours,
FR. H. MINK.

ST. LOUIS, MO., Good Friday, 1847.

Dearly beloved Julchen:

This time, my dear Julchen, I feel called upon to write you in a matter of the greatest importance, and I am going to start forthwith. About two years ago a young man came here from Osnabrück, and he was introduced to us. His appearance and his refined manners were liked by all of us, and I took a special interest in him. After knowing him better we became friends, though he is only twenty-three years old. Charles Rudolph Henry Gildehaus joined the army together with Julius and both went to Texas. Julius and Henry became close friends, and they were honorably discharged from the army service.

Julius went to New Orleans, and I offered Henry a partnership to begin when our new building is completed. He accepted this offer with pleasure. Henry called on us more frequently due to the fact that we had to talk matters over in regard to our future business and now he calls every day. We realized soon that our future business connection was not the reason why Henry called so often, but that our dearly beloved Mathilde was the real reason, which caused him to brave rain, snow, and storms.

Mathilde is fond of Henry, and the time is not very far off when her affection must be called love. Christiane is pleased with him, Carl and Fritz like him too, and I took a fancy to Henry a long time ago. Mathilde is tall, strong, and marriageable; and we like Henry well. He is healthy and good, has an excellent business training, and he comes from a good family. His father passed away long ago; Henry Dieckriede, of Osnabrück, is his stepfather. We have heard nothing bad about him except that he led a somewhat careless life in Osnabrück by associating with the wrong kind of friends. He is conducting himself respectably in St. Louis, and we are told by others that his former careless conduct was by no means bad, but simply juvenile carelessness caused by being in the wrong company. I presume that he led a life similar to that of your beloved G. in his years of travel 1823 to 1827.

I should like to get a report about Henry from our Cousin Ludwig Springmann, and I do not doubt that he will be glad to give me a report, but I am afraid that I shall not find out through him what I should like to know. I know Ludwig Springmann's principles and I am certain that his answer will be something like this:

Not only Henry but the whole family are "children of the world," who go to a place of amusement more frequently than to church, who believe in dancing, laughing, and other worldly pleasures, who strive for worldly treasures, and who know more about dogs, horses, and agriculture, etc., than about our Lord and the Scriptures.

A report like this is something that I do not wish to get, but I should like to know how he lived in Osnabrück, and how his former employers, Messrs. Thorbecke Brothers and Mr. Wüste, were satisfied with him, and whether his conduct was merely caused by thoughtlessness. I have also written to another friend, as I wish to get as much information as I can.

If the reports are good, then we have no cause to decline Henry's wishes. Though he has not expressed them as yet, we know very well what they consist of, and it is not impossible that there may be a wedding next fall.

Though I know that you have no other source except the Springmanns, I am asking you for this information, as I know well that you take a heartfelt interest in our welfare; but you must not talk about this to others. May our good Lord lead us wisely and may He show us the way which is best for our beloved Mathilde for time and eternity!

On February 17, to be correct on March 30, we had an opportunity to send a small piece of hand work knit by Mathilde to Ludwig Springmann, and we asked him to give it to you at his convenience. I wrote on February 4 and this was my answer to your letter of September 26; since then we have been without word from you, but we hope to get a letter soon. The settlement of accounts with Father is in order with the exception of seventy-five *Taler*, which he charged to me twice, and I have written him about it.

I have already written you about Carl and his difficulties with his wife. The matter progressed so far that he sold his house in Quincy and left for Valdorf on March 30 with his daughter Anna via Louisville, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, New York, and Bremen. He is not divorced, as this would take too much time. He intends to open up a small store in Valdorf, and I believe he will be able to make a living for himself. Hannchen wrote me today that she wants to get a divorce, as this would enable her to marry again; this, however, may have its difficulties, as Carl is on his way to Germany.

Fritz told Carl that he did not wish to have anything to do with the whole matter, and he advised him to return to Quincy and to make up with his wife. Carl stopped in St. Louis on his return-trip and he asked me to help him. I complied with his wish, went with him, sold the house for him, and settled everything in such a way that Carl left Quincy without seeing Hannchen.

The whole matter was a severe strain on Carl, and he had to spend more than \$200.00, not including the trip to Germany. It was partly Carl's own fault, as common sense ought to have told him to listen to sound advice. If he had acted like a mature man, and not like a foolish youngster, things would have been different. I trust that he will be able to support himself, and this should not be too difficult if he can leave his daughter Anna with her grandparents. I am convinced that Hannchen, who is more to blame than Carl, will face a sad future.

Pauck wrote to Fritz in Louisville that August *almost* married a rich widow with 5000 *Taler*, whom he learned to love because she resembled Gretchen. He mentioned that August came to Lennep with the intention of asking one of our cousins to marry him, and

that Gretchen's relatives advised him not to do it. Julius wrote that he is getting along very well and he may take a trip to Tampico this summer. He asked me to transmit greetings to you, and that you should tell his brother to answer his last letter and to address the letter to me.

We are getting along all right and we enjoy good health. Mathilde is singing:

Glücklich allein ist die Seele die liebt.

"Happy alone is the heart that loves."

Her mother, in happy remembrance of her own youth, wishes in her heart the best of luck for her daughter, and her father recalls the time when he thought as Henry thinks now: "Oh, what a wonderful angel has God presented to me! Oh, my beloved Mathilde, if God had not given us our great love, life would not be worth living!"

I shall finish now, my dear Julchen. We hope to get pleasant news from you within a short time; if you have not written, please do not delay any longer. Tell us how you are, how you are living, and if you think of us once in a while. Hearty greetings to our dear cousins. I intend to write again as soon as something worth while happens, particularly with reference to Mathilde. Until then, please keep it a secret if possible.

Heartfelt greetings to our dear sister, sister-in-law, and Aunt Julia.

Your
G.

We have heard nothing from Hardt, of New York, and from Spicker. Madame Ernst Meyer and her husband arrived here last summer; the husband died shortly after, and Madame Meyer is on her way home. She left with Carl H. Schmieding, and she intends to go to her brother, Pastor Schmeersohl in Iburg, near Osnabrück. Madame Meyer was our neighbor and she took Mathilde's knit work along. She promised us to call on the Springmanns and to tell them all about us.

Farewell, and hearty greetings.

Your loving brother,
GUSTAVUS.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., April 3 (1847).

Le Havre 6. Mai, 1847 (May 6, 1847).

Paris, 7. Mai, 1847 (May 7, 1847).

Lennepe, 9. Mai, 1847 (May 9, 1847).

SAINT LOUIS, MO., July 7, 1847.

Dear Sister Julie Marie:

After a long wait we received on June 1 your kind letter of April 19 and your letter of May 18 arrived on June 26. We had your answer to our letter of April 2 on June 26, and this was very quick. I am confident that you got my letter of April 10 with engagement announcements. We had a wonderful report from Osnabrück and this removed all obstacles which might have caused us to refuse our consent, though we preferred Henry Gildehaus to all other young men.

Regarding their youth I must answer that they are of the right age in this country, and with reference to their mental ability to understand the great importance of this step, I am convinced that the mind develops faster in America, and that both have a full understanding. These conditions are brought about in this country by the noble interpretation of personal liberty and by reading a free press, which condemns everything servile and submissive. As a rule children are not excluded from conversations among adults in America, and they are not considered presumptuous and forward when they participate in a conversation of their parents. On the contrary, American parents aim to increase their power of attention and they ask for their opinion.

As soon as our children learned to read, I made them read the newspapers, and I insisted that they should ask for the meaning of each word which they did not understand. Carl, who is fifteen years old today, can talk about politics more sensibly than I could when I was twenty-five years old. I enjoy going to public meetings, and I listen to all kinds of speeches, and for the past two years I have taken Carl along whenever it was possible. Through this he has become fearless and he has more self-confidence than most boys of twenty years in Germany. In American families the relation between parents and children is strange and cold compared with conditions in Germany. I did not like this from the beginning and I resolved to avoid such cold relations. In Germany parents are so highly esteemed that children are compelled to keep silent when an older person speaks; they are not allowed to have an opinion of their own, at least they are not allowed to express such an opinion; they get so much accustomed to their subordinate position, to obedience and subjection, that in many instances they can never free themselves from this state of mind. If a boy expresses his opinion, he is called impudent or too forward, and if the poor fellow possesses a sense of honor, he will become dull and reticent, and he will sneak

away when older people come together, and, by being treated thus he most assuredly will not benefit from the experiences of his elders. I consider the cold relation between parents and children wrong, and also the subordinate position, but the latter is more detrimental than the former. We tried to avoid both in educating our children. Through this, and mainly through the opportunity to express unrestrainedly in words and in writing their thoughts and feelings, and especially, through practical experience, which children should be taught as early as possible, their minds develop faster than in Germany. The average boy in Germany is mentally four to five years behind, compared with the average American boy, and the difference in girls is about the same.

Mother claims that Mathilde knows more about housekeeping than she knew herself when she was twenty-two years old. Mathilde is more developed bodily than her mother was at the time of her marriage. As to religion, Gildehaus agrees with our, and particularly with Mathilde's ideas. If we are not mistaken—and this is not very likely—Gildehaus' case will be similar to my own experience. When I became engaged, I began to settle down, and I started to live a quiet and secluded life after I was married. Our house will be completed in the fall; but there will be some changes, as G. intends to live with us. The room on the first floor will be omitted, and the entire lower floor will be occupied by the store. We are adding a rear building, thirty feet long and fifteen feet wide. The basement will be used as a store room; the kitchen will be thirteen or sixteen feet long, and there will be an open shed behind the kitchen.

I shall answer your letter now point by point:

You begin with the children. Well, what can I say about them without repeating what I have said before? The rich language of our ancestors is too poor to express the feelings of a happy girl who is engaged to be married. Carl is still with T. I. Meier; his first year will be over on July 20th, but he intends to stay one more year, and he gets \$125.00 for the second year, including room and board. The boy is getting along nicely, he is still growing, and Meier is well satisfied with him. Fritz has worked one year in the store, and I intend to send him back to school, or rather to Mr. Hardt, for one more year. The year of experience in the store helped him to overcome his awkwardness, and this was more beneficial to him than going to school. I trust that he will show more eagerness to study. He may learn a trade later on, possibly copper-smith or carpenter; these are very good trades in this country, especially the one mentioned first. Carl plays the flute fairly well, but Mathilde did not do so well with

the guitar; she lacked talent, inclination, and perseverance. She has more talent for dress-making, etc.

Am I getting grey? Well, I am trying very hard to create the impression that my hair is only slightly interwoven with a few grey hairs, and that it is not getting thin. I bought my first pair of glasses on Mathilde's engagement day, but I use them only in the evening when reading or writing by artificial light. I am strong and healthy, but my ankles are still weak from my fall two and a half years ago, and they hurt me when the weather is bad. I have been wearing an abdominal support for about one year as a precaution against rupture on account of my corpulence. I weigh 212 English, or about 190 German pounds; this is somewhat troublesome, but my cheerful disposition makes up for this.

My beloved Christelchen was forty years old last week. She is feeling well and she has not a single grey hair. She enjoys dancing and looks like a young lady of thirty years. About eight years ago she had a few missing teeth replaced, and that improved her appearance so that she looks beautiful and young. I drink mostly lemonade and occasionally a glass of beer, but never alcoholic liquors; I have plenty of exercise and I am in the fresh air practically all the time. We have an excellent physician, who charges one and a half dollars per family member per year, which means, that he charges nine dollars per annum for professional services for six persons, and he furnishes the medicine free; but if he did not know that we were in good health, and that we were leading a well-regulated life, his charges would amount to twenty-five dollars per person.

What am I dealing in? Well, I sell groceries and I intend to enlarge my business considerably when our new building is completed. Von Berg will be paid as soon as I am able to pay him, but he has to give me more time. If he does not wish to wait any longer, he may find out that he gets nothing at all, and it will be his own fault; he can do nothing legally. I have not bought goods in Germany for many years, as I could not sell German goods with a profit, in spite of the fact that the house in Elberfeld allowed me 130 *Mark* or about 40 *Taler*, whereas Messrs. Enseller and Hardt acted as mediating agents. I trust that business conditions improve when we are in our new location, and I intend to make a settlement with von Berg as soon as possible. But this is enough on the subject; you can do nothing about it, and a further discussion is of no use.

What do you say about the dear son Carl? He should be in

Valdorf by this time; we have heard nothing from him since he left. We hoped in vain that you would make a trip to Osnabrück, as we thought you might wish to make the acquaintance of Mr. Dieckriede and his family. You may not get an opportunity again to hear at first-hand a correct report about our endeavors and doings, our ways of living and ambitions, about our aspirations and whatever else you may hear through Madame Meyer.

I have no confidence in Cousin Ludwig's opinion in this respect. In 1826 he met my principal in a London inn; but he did not wish to be introduced, because he observed that God was never mentioned in his conversation, and because he might make an acquaintance which might become disagreeable later on. I consider such ideas well fit for people who are in a lunatic asylum on account of such ideas. In 1832 I had to give him a solemn promise not to smuggle a dress, which I intended to give to my wife, and he told me it was not right to cheat our good king out of five *Silbergroschen*. A short time later his traveling salesman came to Bielefeld to do business without a license. Springmann did not hesitate to cheat Frederick William III out of twenty *Taler*. He sent word to me that he did not wish to pay twenty *Taler* for a license, as this was too much, and that I should place no order with his salesman if it was too risky. Without doubt you will call this temptation, or human weakness, or influence of the devil, but I call it plain disgusting hypocrisy.

Religionists believe themselves happy because they are not like the children of the world, but they overlook the fact that their doctrines also hold good when we reverse conditions. Brother August hoped to find consolation for the loss of his beloved Gretchen by marrying a rich, young widow of Altona, who is willing to take the place of his Gretchen, but unfortunately our good Lord enlightened the rich widow, and she discovered that it was unwise to marry a widower with ill-bred children, and August's hopes vanished to the realm of fancies. These are trials we have to live through, and it is hard at times to accommodate ourselves to circumstances. Let us hope that August is fortunate, and that he finds another jewel, which is set with gems and pearls.

Your news was very interesting; please continue to send us as much as you can.

Julius did not go to Tampico; he has informed Gildehaus that he may not stay in New Orleans as he cannot stand the heat. His employer is well pleased with him. Julius is healthy but he has lost weight on account of the heat. He may spend the summer in St. Louis and return to New Orleans in the fall. I can't tell if my father-

in-law intends to correct the 75 *Taler* which he charged twice. August does not look after such earthly matters, and this suits the old boy all right. One cannot accomplish much in worldly matters with these cunning fellows. The 330 *Taler* will be paid after Father's departure. Give my regards to the "pretty boy" and to all my friends. Fritz is getting along well; he has two children.

We are really glad to notice that you are more cheerful, but there are times when we think it would be better for you if you were living with us. God will show you the way which is best for you. It would be great if Aunt Julia could caress and pamper . . . in a few years from now—oh dear, I do not wish to deprive you of this pleasure for anything in the world; however, it may be better if you stay in your accustomed surroundings. We have not given up our idea of taking a trip to Germany, but the trip itself is far off.

Fritz did not treat Carl right. As soon as he noticed that Carl's domestic trouble might cause annoyance and vexation, he sent him and little Anna back to Quincy and told him to make up with his wife. Carl stopped in St. Louis, I went with him, settled his affairs, sold his house, and enabled him to return to Germany on March 31. We have not heard as yet if they arrived safely.

You assure us that you are getting along well and that you do not suffer want; under these conditions it seems best not to rush the sale of the house. I am certain that you will get accustomed to your loneliness, but I can see no reason why you should not be able to find a suitable companion. I cannot understand why you do not wish to take a trip to Osnabrück to meet Madame Meyer and Mr. Dieckriede; I still wish you would go. Madame Meyer is a worthy lady and we think well of her, in spite of the fact that she is not up to the standard of excellence and perfection in Ludwig Springmann's opinion. We are glad that you have such a dear friend in Mrs. Burcher; please extend our compliments to her. How is Madame Quambusch? We have heard nothing further from Albert Spicker; have you heard anything? He is supposed to be in Texas and he has squandered all his money. We have several German-language newspapers here which publish abstracts from your papers, but I have not seen any from Germany for many years. Our Mexican war seems to have become a long drawn-out affair. I consider this a just war from our point of view. How are the Vollmers' financial circumstances? Have they saved, and has Julius a chance to inherit anything?

Judging from the latest reports, Germany expects to have a good harvest; everything appears excellent in this country too, and we

trust that prices will be reduced. A letter to you, as well as a letter from you, which is postpaid Havre de Grace, costs about twenty-six *Silbergroschen*, or one *Taler*. This will be cheaper soon, as our government intends to make a new arrangement with England and Prussia. They will regulate the mail service so that we can prepay letters to destination in place of prepaying them to the boundary only.

On June 1 a steamer left New York for Bremen, and several more steamers are under construction for this course. They expect this first steamer, which left on June 1, to arrive in Bremen after ten to twelve days. Since it takes six to seven days to reach New York and two to three days from Bremen to Lennep, we could make the entire trip within a month's time; the expenses amount to about one hundred dollars per person. If you are lucky enough to win the great prize, and if you will be kind enough to present us with only \$500.00, Christiane and I will be pleased to thank our dear Aunt Julia verbally. This is a little hint which you must not overlook.

There is a better grade of paper in Germany than the kind you and I are using. I have ordered the best grade that can be bought in Germany. Please remember that two sheets do not cost much more than one sheet. If the weight of the letter is not increased by writing-sand, and if there are not too many blank pages in the letter, the postage fee is not too high, and I know of no expense I enjoy paying more than the fee on a letter from you; and, since your letters have no empty pages, and since you never waste writing-sand, please bear in mind once and for all that I prefer to get two sheets to getting one, and three sheets to two. I could sell our building lots at a profit of 100 per cent, but we do not wish to sell, as there is no doubt in my mind that they will be worth more in a few years.

Mr. Hardt did not succeed in getting a loan for me in New York. He has not been in this country long enough; and I think he is a little hasty in forming a fair opinion about Julius' becoming a soldier. When the good people of Lennep grumble about Julius and me, I can only say that I regret their narrow-minded pertness; I wish they had sufficient discretion and understanding to comprehend that we are in a better position to judge than they are over there; or can it be possible that these richly endowed people believe that we lack intelligence, and do they expect us to ask in Lennep first what the citizens of the freest country in the world should do for their own benefit?

Richard Hardt was here for a few days. He is starting a business in New York with his brother Henry, and the firm's name will be Hardt & Co. Mr. Hardt is betrothed to a daughter of Landrath¹ von Bernath. There is no doubt that Albert Spicker is broke; he is boot-black and stableman at an inn in Galveston. I may write him if I can get his correct address. Please extend greetings to his parents. It is a pity that Ludwig Springmann failed to call on Mr. Thorner; Madame Meyer promised me that she would pay him a visit; I am curious to know if his conscience permits him to accept her visit. Nohl is getting along well, he has a good position which pays him a salary of \$1200.00. Schroder has led a frivolous and morally unrestrained life; he is a cavalry lieutenant, and his company is in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at present. Ernest Koster, of Soest, intends to be a lawyer, but I doubt very much whether he succeeds in his ambition; he is too old to acquire the knowledge that is necessary to accomplish this, and since he is not an orator, he may become a great bungler. I know him, but I do not associate with him and I do not think much of his ability. Won't you find out something about Amalie Kauert, wife of the teacher Kauert of Kierspe? Mrs. Kauert was the teacher of Kierspe, near Meinertshagen, between 1820 and 1830. I should like to know how she is getting along.

With his Patent of February 3 your "Most Gracious King" has most graciously hoodwinked his submissive nation, and will, I hope—here I recall Nicolaus Becker's satirical song:

*Das dumme Lied und der dummer Kerl, er hat euch schmäählich blamiert,
Gewissermassen hat er euch auch politisch compromittiert.*

"That stupid song and that stupid dolt, exposed you to his ridicule,
He compromised your politics, and made each one of you a fool."

I used to be well acquainted with N. Becker² in Geilenkirchen, and I should like to meet him again, but I fear the ridicule brought about by that confounded song with its concealed sarcasm.

Long live F. W. R. the Last—in Siberia! A consitution had been promised to the Prussians in 1815 by F. W. No. 3, the Just (?), and in 1847 No. 4 tells them: I will give you a constitution provided you arrange everything according to my wishes and ask for nothing further except what I permit you to wish.

¹ Landrath, "District President in Prussia."

² Nicolaus Becker died in August 1845, about two years before Mr. Wulfin wrote this. He was the author of the patriotic song, *Sie sollen ihn nicht haben* . . . , about which Mr. Wulfin inquired in a previous letter; *ihn* refers to the river Rhine. Cf. *infra*, p. 275.

Dear Julia, we do not seem to understand each other in this matter; you do not have occasion to associate much with the "Most Gracious Ruler," nor do I, so you may, in accordance with your point of view, wish him all possible blessings, and I may wish him in Siberia, and neither disposition shall interfere with our love between brother and sister.

Long live Liberty!

*Die schöne Welt ist voller Harm, und ewig tief bedrängt,
Bis an dem letzten Pfaffendarm, der letzte Herrscher hängt!*

"This beautiful world is full of grief, weighed down by
constant stings—
Till from the last of clergys' guts, the last harsh ruler swings!"

Overhoff, Wm. Lehmann's cousin, is a soldier and he is in Mexico. Please extend to Lenchen Burgmann's father our heartiest congratulations on his fiftieth anniversary and give them our best regards. I seldom meet any one who comes from our home town or the immediate neighborhood. No, we have no garden behind our house. They cook with salt here too, same as at home. Julius may not go to Tampico, but if he does, it will be a business trip. No, he is not going to join the army a second time. I knew Lehmhol, of Rastingen, in Lennep. Please give me Wm. Lehmann's exact address, as I may pay him a visit in New York.

Pauck has not got the money for his children as yet; he lives in Cincinnati on the income of his children. The Winters, of Bünde, intend to send another son to America this fall, and a stepbrother of Gildehaus will come too. We hope to hear from Madame Meyer and from Carl within a short time. A friend of mine had a letter from Osnabrück stating that she arrived safely. Wm. Kayser is still in Germany, he may not go to Lennep, but I believe he will go to Osnabrück.

If you get an opportunity to sell the house or the lots, you should not hesitate to sell, as this will eliminate repairs and many other inconveniences. If you do your share,³ I can see no reason why you should not be happy and well satisfied. If you get an opportunity to send us the *County News* or other newspapers, please send as many issues as you can.

I started this letter on the 7th and it will be mailed today, July 16. I wrote you before that we are enjoying good health. Greetings to our dear cousins in Lennep and Barmen, and also to our friends and other relatives. Please write us soon and do not overlook to send all the news you can.

³ Apparently means "share your income with some one else."

Christiane and Mathilde send their heartiest greetings, and they ask you to forgive them for not adding a few lines. They give all kinds of excuses, but the real reason is they prefer a needle or a cooking spoon to a pen.

Farewell, my dear Julchen; write soon and keep us in kind memory.

Your loving brother,
GUSTAVUS.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., July 17 (1847).

Le Havre, 31. Aout, 1847 (August 31, 1847).

Lennepe, September 4 (1847).

ST. LOUIS, MO., November 20, 1847.

Dear Julia:

Day before yesterday I received your kind letter of October 11 and I answered Cousin Springmann directly, as you may see from the enclosure. Please take half of this sheet off and mail it together with the enclosure to him, but read both first. I wrote him conscientiously what I think about the matter, and when he arrives here, I shall be pleased to assist him to the best of my ability. You may encourage his wife and his children with a clear conscience, so that they may not regard the voyage as something too dangerous.

I have your letter of June 25 before me and I intend to answer your two letters now. Our house is almost completed and it will be ready for occupancy in two or three weeks. Mathilde's wedding day is set for the Second Christmas Day.

Now picture in your mind four o'clock in the afternoon of the Second Christmas Day. A beautiful carriage drives up, and the following persons take their places in it:

- A) The bride, Joanna Christiana Mathilde Wulfing
- B) The bridegroom, Christian Rudolph Henry Gildehaus¹
- C) The mother-in-law of the bridegroom, Frederica Christiana Wulfing née Schmieding
- D) The father of the bride, Maximilian Gustavus Wulfing.

¹In his letter of Good Friday, 1847, Mr. Wulfing wrote *Carl* Rudolph Heinrich Gildehaus, but in his letter of November 20 and in this letter, *Christian* Rudolph Heinrich Gildehaus. The other names show a tendency toward Latin and English forms rather than German.

The second carriage will be occupied by:

- A) The brothers of the bride, Charles Henry William Wulfin
and
Gustavus Frederick Wulfin
B) The stepbrother of the bridegroom, Bernard Dieckriede.

The carriages proceed to the church in a slow and solemn manner, and they are followed by a large escort. The nuptial ceremony takes place before the altar. After an impressive sermon, the pastor joins us, and the entire party returns to our home at full speed. After mutual congratulations, a frugal dinner will be served, consisting of:

Lettuce and Herring Salad
Roast Veal and Potatoes
Ham, raw or boiled
Tea and Coffee
Red and White Wine

and for dessert several kinds of cakes, a glass of punch, and extra fine cigars. At eleven or twelve o'clock the pastor drives home, and the party retires. We have sufficient room for the escort, as I have God's holy guardian angels in mind.

There will be no big wedding, as neither Gildehaus nor we have relatives in this country; we cannot invite our friends, for there are too many. It is not right to invite those we like best, as this would insult the others. We shall think of you in love, and everyone of us will drink to your health. Mathilde tells us she likes her Henry better now than on her engagement day, and Henry tells us the same; we do not doubt that both are facing a bright and happy future. The above mentioned Bernard Dieckriede has not arrived as yet; he went to sea on September 22 and we expect him to reach St. Louis almost any time. He and a second son of precentor Winter, of Bünde, are traveling with Mr. Wm. Kayser.

We are enjoying good health and are glad that our house is almost completed. For the time being we intend to have only one household, and when we realize that this won't do, we shall rent a second home in our neighborhood. In this way each family will have its own household, though we shall have our business together. I am confident and hope that we may stay together, as this means a considerable saving for all of us. Bernard will live with us until he finds a suitable position; he is as old as Mathilde. It may be well for him to learn the same business as Carl, as this may enable both to start a hardware store together later on. We still believe the best thing

for Fritz is to become a coppersmith. Gildehaus' parents are well pleased and they sent him most heartfelt congratulations.

Heartiest greetings to our dear cousins, and please do not fail to take a trip to Osnabrück. You will like Madame Meyer; she is an excellent lady, not pietistic, and she will enjoy telling you all about us. Extend our greetings to her and her children, particularly to Miss Julchen. Do not worry about the von Bergs; if they are lenient, they'll get everything that is coming to them; if they have no patience, they'll get nothing. Please forward their last letter with your next letter, or send it through the Springmanns, but seal it well in that case.

Julius is feeling all right; he does not intend to give up his position at the present time. He will be glad to assist the Springmanns when they arrive in New Orleans, and I know of nobody who can do this better than Julius. I have not heard a thing from Spicker. If I had been in Mrs. Carl Springmann's place, I would have brought the knit work to you in person, and I would have had the drawing framed before giving it to you. However, I am not so refined, and I do not blame Madame Meyer for not wanting to pay a visit to the Springmanns. Carl made the drawing for you, and I believe that a little black frame will bring forth the best effect.

✓ Mr. Wm. Kayser may bring a letter from Father in regard to the seventy-five *Taler*; we have had no letters from them for a long time. Fritz is getting along all right, but he may move to St. Louis next year; he has already sold his house in Louisville. Carl's wife, or as we call her, his beloved Hannchen, got her divorce, and she is married again. Thank God, Carl is rid of her for good. Henry's sister, Johanna Dieckriede, is said to be an excellent young lady of nineteen years. After your visit to Osnabrück, please write us your candid opinion and tell us how you liked the family. We trust you may find a buyer for the house soon, as this would relieve you of further worries. Who is your chief adviser in these matters?

How is Fritz Springmann's wife? Is she resolute or squeamish? What are her children, males or females?

This letter will be mailed today, and I hope that you may get it before Christmas; at any rate before the end of the year. We wish to extend The Season's Greetings and ask you for your sisterly love. Greetings to our dear cousins, and remind the Springmanns to write without delay. Enclose their letter with your next letter, or they may mail it themselves if they prefer.

Farewell, dear Julia; greetings and kisses from all of us.

Please write soon and send us news, as we enjoy it. We learn

from Hardt's brother that Heinrich Hardt is betrothed to the Landrath's daughter.

Again farewell, and keep us in kind memory.

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Letter arrived in Lennep December 28, 1847.

April, 1848.

Dear Sister:

On March 20 your kind letter of January 2 arrived at last, and I do not wish to delay my answer. I am pleased to hear that Springmann is getting along all right. He preferred moving to Cologne, but I am convinced he would have done better by coming to St. Louis; at any rate it would have been better for his children. Many thanks for the presents; we hope to get an opportunity to call for same at Mr. Hardt's.

Two weeks ago Mr. Kraus, of Born, called on us; he lives in Linzerhausen near Linz on the Rhine. He promised us to pay you a visit. I gave him a pair of moccasins for you and I hope that you will like them. He is a relative of the widow of Arnold Hardt, and he lives in her house when he is in Lennep. He met every one of us except Carl and he may return to St. Louis to stay. He is married, but his children are grown; he is said to be well to do.

Of course I will give the silver spoons to Mathilde. You wrote: "Who knows what I would have done, if the Springmanns had moved to St. Louis." What would become of the house in that case? It would please me to hear from you that you sold the old barn—*den alten Kasten*—at a good price. I cannot tell if it is advisable for you to come here, but I can assure you that you are welcome at any time. I am certain that you would never suffer want in this country, but I doubt that you would like the American mode of living, and that the climate would agree with you. If you make up your mind, please write me early enough and let me know what you wish to take along. This will enable me to suggest what you may take and what it would be best to dispose of. The Winters, of Bünde, may come over here in a year or so, and this would be a wonderful opportunity for you; but there are plenty of other opportunities. How about my calling for you?

Julius Winter took over the business of Fritz and Wm. Kayser and he went in partnership with Edward Flohr, of Osnabrück; I am confident that they will be successful. Fritz and Wm. Kayser

moved to St. Louis, and they may open up a wearing-apparel shop. Wm. Kayser has been in Germany to get married; he passed through Elberfeld at night; otherwise he would have stopped and called on you.

We hear of Carl in Valdorf that he has not started a business, but they are trying to find a rich wife for him; I wonder if they will succeed. Father is not going to refund the seventy-five *Taler*—his great piety does not allow him to do this. He says if Pauck made a mistake in his figures, he (Pauck) must pay the difference. It must be a wonderful feeling to gain seventy-five *Taler* when it is obtained in such a noble manner!

Do you fear a revolution in Prussia? There is a rumor in this country that the so-called middle class of the Province of Rhenish-Prussia, *Preussische Rheinprovinz*, is highly pleased with the happy outcome of the revolution in France, and that there is a great possibility that they will not remain quiet. We have heard that Louis Philippe² has arrived in England, that England, Belgium, and the United States have recognized the French Republic, and that the inhabitants of Munich are dissatisfied. I wonder if No. 4 feels somewhat uneasy? This seems to be the right time for a change for the better in political and social affairs. Oh, how fortunate is America, which is ruled by the people, and where the President is the servant of the people! I suppose he has shifted his soldiers,³ so that they will put up a good fight, when No. 4 gives the order to subdue a revolution. There is no doubt in my mind that conditions will improve, but they must reach a climax first.⁴

But what is politics to us? The mutual love and harmony in our family and our contentedness are more important to us. Thanks to our Lord, we are enjoying the best of health, we do not suf-

² Louis Philippe, King of France, 1830-1848, lost his throne in the February Revolution in 1848. He died in England in 1850.

³ I. e. by sending troops from Prussia proper into the Rhineland, and Rhenish-Prussian troops into Prussia proper, thus preventing sons from fighting against their own fathers, or vice versa. Rhenish-Prussia, consisting of the duchies of Berg, Jülich, and Kleve, and the archdioceses of Cologne and Treves, was acquired in 1815. Mr. Wulfing has made a distinction between Prussia proper and Rhenish-Prussia, *Altenpreussen und Rheinpreussen*.

⁴ Frederick William IV, King of Prussia 1840-1857, gave Prussia a diet, *Vereinigter Landtag*, in 1847. He also did away with censorship and changed Prussia into a constitutional monarchy after the March Revolution in 1848, which occurred just before the writing of this letter. He was an idealist and ill advised, but the revolution opened his eyes. He refused to become German Emperor in March 1849, and abdicated in 1857 on account of a brain ailment; he died in 1861.

fer want, and business conditions are improving. What more do we wish!

We enjoy living in our new home. At first we were afraid that the greater distance from the real business section would inconvenience us, but we overcame this by getting a horse and a spring-wagon. We are pleased with our home, and everybody likes our arrangement. It is a wonderful feeling to own your own home, where you can have everything the way you like it best. Gildehaus is in the store almost all of the time; he is well qualified, and a young fellow assists him. I am out most of the time; I do the buying, call for most of the goods in a little wagon, and keep the books, etc.

Fritz is going to high school; Carl is at Meier's, and he may remain there for one more year. Mother and Mathilde change places in the household. This week Mother does the cooking and Mathilde takes care of the rooms, beds, etc., and the sewing, and the next week Mathilde will do the cooking, and Mother will take care of the rest. We made it a standing rule that some one has to be at home at all times, and we alternate on Sundays, that is, one Sunday Mathilde and Gildehaus stay at home, and mother and I drive or go out, and the next Sunday we stay at home and they go out; the boys go with the party which promises to give them the greatest fun.

Carl is doing well; he learned double-entry bookkeeping this winter. His teacher called on us the other day and told us that Carl is his best pupil. This pleased us very much. Fritz is doing well too, he goes to an excellent English high school. Carl earns \$125.00 this year with room and board, and he may earn \$175.00 in the third year. He spends his Sundays with us. He comes home on Sunday morning, or sometimes on Saturday night, and he returns to Meier's on Sunday evening. I call on him frequently during the week, and I leave the horse in front of their store when I go to market. Mother does not see him all week, and for this reason he never gets fewer than three kisses from her on a Sunday morning.

Mother keeps herself extra well and she gets many compliments on account of her juvenile looks; she takes these for granted, and this is just like a woman. Mathilde plays the rôle of housewife very well and she is prettier now than ever before. Carl has grown very little for about a half a year, but Fritz is growing fast and he will be a strong fellow. With me everything remains the same; I weigh 207 lbs. but I am cheerful in spite of this. We often wonder if our dear Aunt Julia will make up her mind to come to America,

but this is a matter which you must decide for yourself, and it is hard to give sound advice. Since we are in our new home our intercourse with friends is somewhat limited; we are living in the city but close to the western end. We are missing nothing, for we find happiness among ourselves.

Now to answer your kind letter. Many thanks for your New Year wishes; many happy returns to you and heartfelt thanks for the lovely presents. You wish to know how the bride was dressed. Bernard Dieckriede, Henry's stepbrother, brought, among other things, the material for an extra fine black silk dress; she had a wreath of myrtle grown by herself, and everything that is necessary for a bride. We were very happy, and we drank to your and to our dear cousins' health several times. Christmas presents were rather scarce this time on account of the wedding and many other expenses for our new home, but this may be better the next time—at least we hope so. Please extend to our dear cousins our heartfelt thanks for the lovely small collars; their thoughtfulness pleased mother and Mathilde in particular.

In regard to Ferdinand Heinbrok I wish to say that conditions are very good for painters and varnishers, but the trade of glaziers is unimportant in this country, as it is only a sideline. Window panes are cut in the factory and can be bought in all sizes. Leaded windows are not used in America, only wooden frames. Painters are paid well; they have strong competition but they earn more than in Germany. White lead ground in oil can be bought ready for use in twenty-five-pound containers at \$1.50 and \$1.75 for the better grade, this is seven cents per pound or three and one-half *Silbergroschen* for the best grade. There is no need to bring brushes or paint along, as everything can be obtained in this country, and I doubt that these are cheaper in Germany. Sign painters are paid extra well provided they turn out neat work. We ordered our firm sign from a friend

WULFING AND GILDEHAUS
GROCERIES, PROVISIONS, AND LIQUORS

that is, forty-four black letters on white, one foot high, and we paid five dollars for it; the regular price would have been about eight to ten dollars. We have good sign painters in St. Louis, but there is enough work for more, as this is a good trade for those who know their business. There is no room for butchers in this country, and no need for portrait painters. If Heinbrok wants to come to St. Louis, he will find me on Market and Seventeenth Street, and I shall

gladly assist him. You may suggest to him to travel via New Orleans, as there are always ships leaving Bremen for this port in fall and spring, and tell him not to take too much baggage along. You may give him a letter of recommendation to Julius Wusthoff, whom he will find with Edgell, Mulford and Co. in New Orleans.

It is hard to believe that I wrote Springmann the trip from Bremen to New Orleans would cost \$400.00 per person; this is too much of an error. The price is from 40 to 45 *Taler* in gold for steerage and about 80 *Taler* in gold for cabin passengers. The fare for children is cheaper. Young Winter went to his brother in Louisville and he is learning to be a saddler. Uncle Fritz and Wm. Kayser live on the same street as we do, on Market Street, but one mile from us. They live on Second and Market, and we on Seventeenth and Market Sts. Uncle Fritz has two boys. Bernard Dieckriede has a job in a general store.

A trip to Osnabrück would be a nice experience for you, and you would make the acquaintance of the Dieckriede family and of Madame Meyer. The latter promised to write us, but she has not kept her promise; or rather, we have failed to get a letter from her. I doubt whether she called on the Springmanns, and she promised that too. I hope that Mr. Kraus calls on you, and that you are not in Osnabrück when he calls in Lennep. Of course Amalie Kauert was an old flame, or I should not be so eager to hear from her. You need not be afraid to write about her, as mother is not jealous of ladies who live on the other side of the ocean; my goodness, the time of our youth has passed. Mr. Koster is a lawyer all right, but not a good one; therefore he has no clients. Thank God, we have nothing to do with lawyers, courts, doctors, etc., and we do not need Koster's services. We have no desire to associate with him, as we know others whom we like better.

You should not be so surprised about my writing formally to Springmann; I have not seen him for more than fifteen years, and I was never well acquainted with him. I was in doubt myself how to address him, formally or in familiar terms—*ob ich "Du" oder "Sie" schreiben sollte*.

If I were with you a short time only, I could advise you whether you should stay in Germany or come to America, but I cannot advise you from here. You know from my letters that we are in good health most of the time, and Christiane is stronger and healthier than in Germany. The climate agrees with her, but this does not mean that it would agree with you. One thing is certain, you would lead a life free from care if you were with us.

Every one of us has a happy disposition, and I can see no reason why you should not be happy too. I believe the whole question hinges on the sale of the house, and I sincerely trust that you may find a buyer soon. I have heard nothing about Spicker; I suggest that you write to Julius Wusthoff, as Julius may be in a better position to find something out about him. Hearty greetings to our dear cousins from all of us, also from Christian Rudolph Henry Gildehaus, who will be twenty-three years old on June 18.

I shall finish now; I may induce one or another of the family to add a few lines, though none of them is fond of writing. Farewell, my dear Julia, and write a long letter soon.

Heartiest greetings from all of us, particularly from
Your loving brother,

G.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 5, 1848.

Carl is not here and Fritz is in school, Gildehaus has no time, Mother and Mathilde are washing, and no one feels like writing just now, so I have to do it myself. Mother says:

I should enjoy adding a few lines, if it could be accomplished with good intentions; I never know what to add, as you write about everything, and I do not wish to repeat; I really know of nothing I could write about. If Julia were here and I could talk to her, I should have plenty to say, I would not get through with it today; oh, what am I saying, I would not get through in a whole week; and when I should get tired of talking, I would take her up-stairs and show her the little room which is intended for her, and I would show her the other rooms too, and she would be surprised to see the three-story-high bed in which the boys sleep. The room is small, but I know she will like it. When we place the little desk, which is in the garret now, in one corner, and a bed, a washstand, and a few chairs in her room, and a rug on the floor, she will like it still better, in spite of the fact that the dresser is in the next room. Our wardrobe is big enough to hold her dresses. We shall buy a mirror and she may bring some pictures along, and there is enough space left near the window to take care of books.

After hearing such an eloquent jumble I decided to put the whole rigmarole⁴ down, and here it is.

They asked me to send you innumerable greetings. The wash is already on the line in the yard and will be dry in two hours, then comes the ironing, and when this is done, the great wash day is over for this week. They are happy on account of the bright sunshine, and because the clothes line has not broken down—so far.

⁴ *Den ganzen Quatsch.*

Farewell; I will write more the next time, and remember us in love,

Your
G.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., April 6 (1848).

Le Havre, 3. Juin, 1848 (June 3, 1848).

Coeln, 5. Juni, 1848 (June 5, 1848).

Lennepe, 7. Juni, 1848 (June 7, 1848).

ST. LOUIS, MO., July 26, 1848.

Dear Sister:

I wrote a few lines on March 7 which I sent through Mr. Kraus; my last letter of April 5 went by mail, and I trust that you received the same. With my letter of April 5 I replied to yours of January 2; your letter of March 7 reached us the other day, and I am going to answer now.

We wish to thank you for your picture, we find that you have not changed much in spite of your stern look. The spoons and the other presents arrived also, and every one of us thanks you again for your kindness. Mathilde especially is very happy about the spoons, etc. We note with great satisfaction that your health is improving and we trust it will continue to improve. The fact that you know how to adapt yourself to the new conditions has much to do with your improving health. It is our duty to preserve our health, and the only way to do this is to appreciate and enjoy what our good Lord has given us, and to bear our destiny with dignity without begrudging others. We are feeling well and are happy. We have one household and I feel certain that it will stay that way. Business is improving and Mother is getting younger looking every day.

If we may surmise from newspaper reports, your disturbances are not yet over, but it seems that they have got a good start, and war and devastation will not cease until the thirty-six unnecessary rulers are driven out, and until Germany becomes a republic. You and our dear cousins may not be exposed to danger, yet I should prefer it if all of you were in safety in this country. I should be glad if I had a good correspondent in Germany who could keep me informed, as the newspaper reports are too uncertain and they contradict themselves. I am confident that Springmann would be better off if he had moved to St. Louis in place of Cologne. I believe that

conditions over there will become so topsy-turvy that everybody will be the loser, and I fear that everyone who possesses anything will face grave dangers.

Undoubtedly the czar has concentrated his army near the border to intervene at the proper time and to prevent the thirty-six from being dethroned, and they will give him a few patches of land to reward him for his trouble. If somebody had had the glorious idea to shoot No. 4 when he ordered the attack on his loyal subjects in Berlin, the other thirty-five would have run away; or did anybody ever hear that birds remain in their places when one of thirty-six is shot? Your allegiance and confidence must be really enormous, when you can write: "May God save and bless F. W. IV.," and I cannot understand how you can say this with sincerity. If they actually get a free press over there, then the truth must be victorious. His perjury will be proved and he cannot wash his hands of it. They will prove that he deceived his dear loyal subjects whenever possible, that he ordered them shot down because they asked for their rights, and that he theatrically called this a misunderstanding. I trust that all of this may happen soon, and that the gentlemen who call themselves "by the Grace and Righteousness of God" will be hanged.

It is against all the laws of nature that enslaved and oppressed subjects should implore our Lord to bless their tormentors, and I hardly think I am saying too much when I assert that such submissive subjects are not yet worthy to become free citizens of a free country. We have heard with satisfaction of the success of the good cause in the June Revolution of Paris, and that the young republic has passed its fire test with honor. Blood will be shed in Germany too; but what is that in comparison with the liberty of a nation? I have full confidence in the German people, but their freedom may not come so soon. There will be no liberty as long as there are kings and kaiser. No matter how incredible this may seem to you, I am certain that you would share my views if you had been living for thirteen years in our free America. Can you name me a good correspondent? How about Springmann? Does he say too: "God save No. 4"?

I should think that the good people of Lennep might have sent a more intelligent representative to Frankfort on the Main, but it is well that they have elected one who does not do much harm to the good cause, and who is not a great help to the bad cause. I know him to be an honest and honorable gentleman, and I respect him as father of a family, citizen, and business man. I can well pic-

ture him passing softly over his beard and talking with important airs about our assigned duties and moral obligations, and—yawning afterwards.

A short time ago Mr. Gottlieb Schroeder, stepson of geometer Engelbert Hendeler, of Lennep, called on me and asked me to give you the following information regarding his circumstances. I have not known Schroeder before, and I can only write what he told me himself. He claims to own a farm about thirty miles from here worth \$1900.00, with a mortgage of \$500.00 on it. He is single and he wants his sister and her husband to come over here, as he would like to rent the farm to them with the understanding that they would take care of the aged uncle, John Wirth. He is a carpenter and would like to work at his trade. He has a brother-in-law who is a geometer, but he would have to do other work, as he could not make a living as a geometer in St. Louis. He wishes to know through you how his sister Julia is getting along, who lives between Lennep and Wermelskirchen, and whether his sister would like to come to St. Louis. The passage from Bremen to New Orleans is forty-five *Ld'or Taler*, and for children under ten years thirty-five *Ld'or Taler*. The fare from New Orleans to St. Louis averages five dollars per person, and on some boats only three or four dollars. Schroeder could send no money, as his obligations amounted to about \$600.00. There is no opportunity for cloth weavers, as there are no cloth factories in St. Louis, and if they do not wish to do other work they should stay where they are. It would be best to sell everything except clothing to avoid unnecessary expenses.

As I said before, I don't know Schroeder, and can only transmit what he wishes me to write, and I can neither add anything nor give advice one way or the other, but I wish to say that anybody who is willing to work and is respectable, and who does not drink, can make a decent living in this country.

We shall take good care of your friend Dietrich Vogt, provided he comes to St. Louis and calls on us. Fritz is out of school now and he will work in our store until next Easter, when he will be confirmed; then he will go to another store.

Carl is with Meier's in his third year; he gets \$175.00 and has everything free except laundry. The boy is doing well and his employers are highly pleased with him. Young Winter is in Louisville and is learning saddlery. I have heard nothing from precentor Winter and cannot tell if he wants to come to America. Young Dieckriede is working in a dry goods store, he is getting along all right, and his employers like him well.

The sale of the old house does not seem to make much progress; if you can get a moderate price, do not hesitate to sell. It would be pleasing news for me to hear that you had actually sold the house. What does Mr. Fuhrmann or Arnold Hardt say about the matter? You have and you will continue to have worries and annoyances on account of the house, and when old man Fuhrmann passes away, his heirs might withdraw the capital. I am confident that you would be happy with us, in spite of the difference in the way of living and perhaps privations, particularly at the present time, when Germany is facing great difficulties. Our future is withheld from us, but it seems reasonable to believe that you will not have unnecessary worries if you live with us. It would be well if you had a free hand and if you were not tied down by the old and somewhat dilapidated house; as long as you have the house you will have continual troubles. Besides, you are of an age where you are entitled to have things a little easier, if you do not wish to become altogether unsensible.

We have heard nothing from Bünde or Valdorf; we do not know if August married again, or what Carl is doing. We enjoy our home, and our family life is such a happy one that we pay little attention to the outside world. We are healthy, and every one of us is striving to make life as pleasant as possible. We have plenty of work, we enjoy our meals, and we sleep well in spite of the heat. Our children are our enjoyment, and if Aunt Julia were living with us, we would do our very best to make American living conditions pleasant for her. Why don't you ask Fuhrmann how much he would pay you in cash and take the whole business over?

I shall finish now, but I have some space left; I may succeed in getting someone to fill the page for me. The one who does it best shall get the first kiss from our dear Aunt Julia when she arrives here.

Farewell, my dear Julia; hearty greetings to our dear cousins, and please write soon. I am sending you my heartfelt regards, and please express our condolence to Burcher.

Keep us in kind memory and write soon.

Your loving brother,
GUSTAVUS.

July 30, 1848.

Since writing the aforesaid I have had occasion to make inquiries about Schroeder, and I have heard that he is a hard-working and upright gentleman, and nobody has cause to say anything injurious

about him. He was offered \$1900.00 for his farm about two years ago, and he should have sold, since the farm is not worth more than \$1200.00 to \$1500.00 at the most. The mortgage amounts to \$600.00, and he may have other obligations of about \$300.00, which, however, are offset by livestock and farm implements. The old Uncle Wirth is a burden to him and he is the main reason why Schroeder cannot make headway, the uncle is so up in years that he may leave this vale of tears soon.

This time every one of them wanted to add a few lines, but Uncle Fritz and family called just now, and this prevents them from doing it; please do not consider this a lack of love for you, it is merely a coincidence.

Farewell, and please write soon.

Your
G.

Dear Julia:

I do wish to send you my heartfelt greetings. My thoughts are with you and our dear cousins often, and I should prefer to give you our thanks verbally, for I cannot do this as well as I should like to in writing. You, dear Julia, and our cousins are very kind to us, and we should be glad to get an opportunity to show you our appreciation.

Farewell, dear Julia, and continue to keep us in kind memory.

Your loving sister,
CHRISTIANE.

Also hearty greetings to our dear cousins.

The following is written in German and in German script:

Dear Aunt Julia:

I do not write often, but I wish to thank you for the many presents and I ask you to transmit my greetings and heartfelt thanks to our cousins.

Your loving niece,
MATHILDE GILDEHAUS, née Wulfing.

Also written in German and German script:

Dear Aunt Julia:

I send you heartfelt greetings and I ask you to be always my dear Aunt Julia, and I remain

Your loving nephew,
FRITZ.

I wish to express my heartfelt greetings to my dear aunt, and I promise to write more some time in the near future.

C. R. H. GILDEHAUS.

Postscript by Mr. Gustavus Wulfig:

Carl cannot add anything as he is not here, but he will write some other time. According to the latest news the thirty-six "by-the-Grace-of-God" have increased in number since they added an Imperial Administrator, Johann of Austria. He will take good care of the country—I hope!

In spite of the Administrator, Hermann Kriege, who took lessons in liberty in this country, will try his very best to teach the good-natured Michael¹ that all thirty-seven are unnecessary trimmings, and that Michael is old enough to take care of himself. The power of the "by-the-Grace-of-God" to inspire reverential fear is so great that our dear Michael is unable to comprehend that he too, by the Grace of God, may become self-governing; but Hermann Kriege, Fritzchen Meister, Carl Heinzen—all American trained—will teach him that he may become independent too, the same as America.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., August 1 (1848).

Le Havre, 3. Septembre, 1848 (September 3, 1848).

Coeln, 4. September, 1848 (September 4, 1848).

Lennepe, 8. September, 1848 (September 8, 1848).

ST. LOUIS, MO., March 4, 1849.

Dear Julia:

I thought that I had answered your kind letter of September 25 a long time ago, and I had expected to hear more from you by this time, but I noticed the other day that I had failed to answer your most interesting letter; I shall not delay my answer any longer. We are feeling all right and we are happy and contented. Business has improved, especially in the past three months, and we are very busy. Since the New Year we have had a porter and we do not have to do all the work ourselves. We like this very much, especially as he eats and sleeps at home.

Fritz will be confirmed at Easter and he has made up his mind to become a merchant. I am going to find a proper place for him within a few days; he is big and strong for his age, and I sincerely trust

¹ *Der gute Michel*, "the goodnatured Michael," refers to a caricature which ridicules the German people; he is a peasant in a night-cap, doltish and not knowing what is going on in this world.

that he will do his best to become a successful business man. Carl has become an accomplished young man and we are really proud of him. The boy is cordial and devoted to his work, and you will find few young men of his age that equal him. He is healthy and still growing, and he is one inch taller than I am. He left his position at Meier's on December 1 and is with Donaldson & Hall, an English firm. He likes it well, and these people are well satisfied with him; they pay \$375.00 per year, but no board and room. As we live too far from D. & H., Carl takes his meals at Adolph Nohl's place, where there are more than eighty boarders, mostly merchants, lawyers, doctors, etc.

Carl saved up to January 1, \$130.00, and expects to save \$500.00 within two years. He will accomplish that with God's aid, and, can you guess what he intends to do with the \$500.00 which he has himself saved? He has made up his mind—and we gave him our permission most cheerfully, as we fully approve of his plan, and believe it to be practical and most conducive to his thorough education—he wishes to use this money to visit his beloved Aunt Julia. What do you say about that? I am inclined to believe that you will not be unpleasantly affected by this news, and I sincerely trust that his good intentions may be realized. I have no doubt about this, and his friend Moll intends to take the trip with him. Moll is a nice and upright man who spends his evenings and Sundays with Carl.

Moll has decided to discontinue the tannery; he works in a store and he is getting along well. He expects a brother with his family to arrive here this spring. I know of no other young man whom I would give preference over Willibald Moll to be Carl's traveling companion on this intended trip to Germany. Though it is far off, we enjoy talking about the trip and the route is completely mapped out. From here to Louisville, Cincinnati, Niagara Falls, Philadelphia, Boston, New York, Havre de Grace, Paris, Strasbourg, the Rhine down-stream to Bonn, Coeln, Düsseldorf, Elberfeld, Lennep, Bünde, Valdorf, Osnabrück, Berlin, Hamburg, Bremen, and from there via New Orleans back to St. Louis. In about two years Carl will be old enough to start a business of his own. He intends to open up a hardware store, and he wishes to see the American and German factories where hardware is made, and prepare himself for his future line of business. As far as we can decide now, Carl will enter our business after his return, and we shall add a hardware department to our present line of groceries and dry goods. But all of this is still so far off that I prefer to put this under the heading of "Pious wishes for the future."

With thanks to our Lord I can only repeat that we are enjoying the best of health, that our business has greatly improved, and that we understand each other in regard to business and our family life, and in consequence we are leading a peaceful, sociable, and happy life. During the week every one of us has his or her full quota of work, and our dear Carl calls on Sundays regularly, friend Moll, Uncle Fritz, and Wm. Kayser frequently, and other friends now and then. I take care of the buying and keep the books, Gildehaus takes care of the selling, Mother and Mathilde of the household and sewing, and interchange every week. The wife of our porter does the washing every Tuesday morning and she gets twenty-five cents, or ten *Silbergroschen*, for this.

We like our house very well; it cost without ground all in all \$1625.00. We have a horse and wagon, two dogs, two cats, eleven chickens and a rooster, twelve peach trees, and we intend to plant a few more next week, and also some grapes. We have no garden, as this means too much work, and we prefer to have some trees. I almost forgot our pigeons—you had better come here and look things over, or Carl may draw a picture on your table.

We hear little from Valdorf, and if Winter did not write once in a while, we should have no news from them at all. We hear through Winter that the amiable Carl is still without occupation and that he lives with his father; and the latter lives, as you well know, with August, who is still looking for a rich, young, and pretty girl who is willing to take the place of his dear Gretchen. Father enjoys the best of health and he walks frequently from Valdorf to Bunde. I do not doubt that Winter intends to move to this country eventually. Uncle Fritz and Wm. Kayser own a fashion shop, and they are doing a good business; Uncle Fritz bought a residence for \$3000.00 a short time ago; his wife suffers from rheumatism and she has been confined to bed for over four weeks; they have three healthy children. Wm. Kayser has a little daughter.

Our Mathilde continued growing after her marriage, and it may be well that they have no increase in the family as yet. She and her dear Henry are really happy. I cannot tell much about Schroder; he has no permanent occupation and he seldom visits us. Julius is the same as ever; he has the same position, but he saves nothing, though he could do this very well. Julius Winter is doing well in Louisville. We have heard nothing from Hardt of New York for a long time. Adolph Nohl is getting along all right. I can find out nothing about Spicker; did he ever write to his parents? I heard from Mr. Morschback, of Cologne, who comes from Ronsdorf,

that Fritz Springmann could not afford to pay the traveling expenses to America, and that he is so unhappily married that a divorce is not improbable. We hear from new emigrants that misery and poverty are very great in Germany.

I shall look over your kind letter now, but first I wish to thank you once more for this letter. I trust that Mr. Kraus called on you. There is not much that is praiseworthy to be said about the *County News*.

Michael² was on the right road, but he was coaxed out of a good thing by promises. He does not wish to be free, he does not know and he does not recognize freedom, he prefers to let things remain as they are, he prays for the good king, he calls the people "mob" in place of fellow citizens, he agrees with the commander when an order is given to shoot the dear subjects with grapeshot, he sends dummies to Frankfort to represent the people, he admires fine phrases in place of demanding action, and he is overmastered by ecstasy over a show piece of poetry such as: "*Sie sollen ihn nicht haben.*" Oh, Michael, Michael, as long as you tolerate sovereigns and wirepullers, you will never be free, and you will remain Michael; but if the majority of the people wish to be Michael, the minority, in accord with democratic and republican views, will have to accept this and can only feel sorry for Michael; and we feel sorry for the German Michael with all our heart.

It is a genuine German trait to respect a doctor merely because our Lord allowed him to reach old age, and it is more convenient to inaugurate a day of penance and prayer than to shoulder the task of exterminating pernicious conditions. When Michael gets an opportunity to pray, to repent, to rest, and sleep, he is greatly pleased; he throws himself in adoration at the feet of his gracious king, and he is happy and satisfied that he is allowed to give everything he achieves to his exalted king, and the noble king is well satisfied too. —By the Grace of God!— It is too bad that the good-natured Michael cannot understand that such a dissembling comedian is just as much "by-the-Grace-of-God," as the German Michael himself, who is by the same Grace of God nothing more or less than the plain German Michael. He prays for his dear king, and we pray for the good Michael that our dear Lord may open his eyes and enlighten and teach him that a murder committed by a king is not justified any more than if it had been committed by his subjects. I had better break off, my dear Julia; my brotherly love for you will

² See footnote on page 272.

remain the same always, though our political views disagree. It will remain quiet in Germany, at least for the present; therefore, good night, dear Michael, sleep well!

If you are waiting for better times to sell the house, I am afraid that you will have to wait a long time. It is most important that you be cheerful and happy, as this will keep you in good health. I have heard nothing about Dahn, Giebel, or Benningrath. Though this is not a fool's paradise, I am confident that they will get along better in this great country than over there, as everybody who wishes to work has at least a chance. Take our porter for example; he is a plain and ignorant fellow with a rupture, who can do no hard labor on account of it, and who cannot read nor write; in spite of this, we pay him the customary wages of ten dollars per month (about sixteen *Taler*). You say: Time will tell if America is really the land of promise as people say. You are still waiting for the time after reading my letters for about fourteen years! You should have learned this from my letters of 1835 and 1836, and now, in 1849, you are still waiting for the time to teach you this! I shall refrain from making further comments. A washerwoman, who works at washing clothing without ironing, gets fifty cents per day (about twenty-four *Silbergroschen*), and if she knows how to iron well, she gets a dollar per day (or one *Taler*, twelve and a half *Silbergroschen*); but Germans will have to learn the American way of ironing first.

We thank you for the lovely presents which you sent through Mr. Moll. Fritz is going to wear the vest on his confirmation day. Can you name me a few people who are in favor of a republic? Are there no friends of mine among them? I think it is well that you did not sell to Wette. On page five of your kind letter you admire, honor, and defend your most gracious king so much that I give up the hope of ever changing your mind; he will never lose his throne as long as he has such loyal subjects. Please, my dear Julia, if Carl calls on you, do not talk politics to him. Carl is a free citizen of a free country, and he knows that he will never give up his political views, and I am not afraid of that, but it might be possible that he might tell you differently, just to please you, and I do not wish this to happen. And now you are writing about "Germany's Unity and Liberty"—well, that tops everything, and I do not know whether I should cry, laugh, or get sick! Do not feel hurt; you are and you will continue to be my dear Julia, even if you like kings and officialdom.

Lottchen Dorfmueller's death came as a surprise to us, and this must be a great loss to Clärchen. Please transmit our condolence

and heartfelt greetings. Also greetings to our dear cousins and friends. Do not mention to anybody that Carl intends to make this trip, as it is too far off, and things may not turn out that way. How are the Springmanns in Osnabrück? Ludwig's children must all be grown up.

New emigrants are arriving here every day, and there are quite a few from Elberfeld, Barmen, etc., and many belong to the upper classes. As a rule about half of them stay right here in our dear St. Louis, and the others go to the country, or to Iowa, or Wisconsin. You may have heard about the finding of gold in California. Many St. Louisans are going to California at the present time; however, the discovery of gold is too recent, and we know little about it. Several of our friends will leave next week, and when they write, we may be able to tell you more.

Greetings to Burcher, and please ask him again to write me a letter. Fritz Kirberg is waiting for spring to bring good times so that he can get married; what is he going to do next winter and when times get worse again? Winter does not bring bad times, and spring not good times; it is Michael himself who makes conditions bad, and Robert Blum and other men of the same mind would make them better.

Give Meta our best regards and tell her that she and her dear Fritz should come to St. Louis if they want to lead a life free from worries. You should know by this time that I would never advise anybody not to come to this country, and you should know that I am convinced that living conditions are better in America than in Germany, or, have you no faith in my letters when I write that we are happy in this country? Of course not every one is successful over here, and many who do not want to work will have to suffer the consequences; others are hampered by sickness, but ninety out of a hundred will never regret that they came to this country, once they live here one or two years.

We went through much—I can safely say unusually much—but think of our children! Carl is not even seventeen years old and he earns \$375.00; name me one boy of the same age who can do that in Germany.

You perform a good deed when you advise any one who wishes to emigrate to come over here, particularly people who can make no headway in Germany, and who are willing to work, and do not drink; almost all handicraftsmen earn more in this country than in Germany. It is true that it is harder for merchants and for people of the educated classes.

Please give me more detailed information about your circumstances. I know you have the house, the side-building, the little garden, the *Gartenfeld*, etc. I do not know your encumbrances, how much rent you get, how much interest you have to pay, how much you need for your living expenses, how much the buildings, the garden, and the *Gartenfeld* are worth, how much you owe Fuhrmann, etc. I know nothing about these things and I should like to get this information so that I may judge for myself whether you are suffering want or not.

I enclose an exact picture of St. Louis and I shall give you a few explanations:³ St. Louis has now 65,000 inhabitants, and more than 1000 new buildings are erected annually. Moll is feeling at home already and he is in good spirits. I presume his family is worth a fair fortune.

Farewell, my dear Julia; if I have written anything that you do not like, please consider it a mistake, as I do not wish to hurt your feelings under any circumstances. One is inclined to use strong language when it comes to politics; therefore, take no offense. If I have said too much, just overlook it, and if I have failed to say enough, add to it what is missing. At any rate accept heartiest greetings from all of us, write soon, and keep us in kind memory, particularly,

Your loving brother,
GUSTAVUS.

The map will give you an idea how the city is laid out; (X) indicates the Court-House No. 9, and (O) is our home. Behind our tree garden is a lake one and a quarter miles long and a quarter of a mile wide. Dunkan's Island and Bloody Island are sandbars. The principal

³ No. 1, 6, 7, 12, 13, 18	Churches
" 2	Public School
" 3, 8, 10, 15	Fire Companies
" 4	Grain Elevator
" 5	Bank
" 9	Court House
" 11	Freemason Lodge
" 14	Gasometer
" 16	Post Office Bldg.
" 17, 22	Universities
" 18	Federal Tobacco Warehouse
" 20	City Hall, Market House, Meat Market, with view of Landing Place
" 21	Theatre.

street in the center is Market Street, starting at the river. The Court-House is on Market Street, between Fourth and Fifth Sts. Our home is at Market and Seventeenth Sts. The streets having the same course as the river are named as follows: The one nearest the Mississippi is Water Street or Levee, the next one is Main Street, then Second Street, Third Street, Fourth Street, and so on. The main landing place for steamboats is marked x————x; when you arrive at the foot of Market Street, you simply follow Market Street until you reach Seventeenth Street, where you will find us happy and contented.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., March 7 (1849).

New York March 19 (1849).

Outre Mer-Le Havre, 24. Avril, 1849 (April 24, 1849).

Ligne-Le Havre, 24. Avril, 1849 (April 24, 1849).

Etranger

(Foreign Mail)

Coeln, 28. April, 1849 (April 28, 1849).

Lennepe, 29. April, 1849 (April 29, 1849).

Detached part of a letter without date, apparently written later:

The picture of St. Louis shows only the main churches; we have more than twenty churches, of which six or seven are German. Is Henriette Bellingrath a daughter of the coppersmith, is she an old spinster, or is she married? The revolt in New York was not political, but the revolt in Canada was, as there are many who would prefer to belong to our fortunate States. Who is this Mr. Vogt who wrote Burcher about the great fire; does he live here or somewhere else? Julius is anything but a dandy. We have two Universities. These are private enterprises, like everything else in this country; each is independent and they are competitors. The Government has nothing to do with them.

Everybody can do here what he likes best without harming his fellow citizens: one may break stones today, preach tomorrow, teach the next day, and then play doctor, as long as one has a hammer and stones on the first day, listeners on the second, pupils on the third, and patients on the fourth, etc. If a fellow knows his business well, he is busy, if not, it will stop by itself; inadequate pastors have no congregations.

I read this letter to mother and Mathilde, and they tell me to emphasize the following:

In 1847 I sold a bed, chairs, etc. amounting to 55 *Taler*, and I had to use the money to pay current obligations. A year ago the income in rent was 24 *Taler* more, but rent has decreased since

. . . up to the present I have received 36 *Taler* from Mr. Hardt; the Family Relief Fund aided me in the first two years after mother's death, but they paid nothing last year.

[My investment in] Cologne has not paid interest for over two years, and all other income stopped with mother's departure. Only Clärchen continued to help me, but she cannot help any longer, as her Farbhaus income has stopped, and this is the money that Clärchen used for charitable purposes.

Without this support I cannot go to Osnabrück, and God knows how much I would have enjoyed this trip; I trust that He may enable me to go there next year. I have a tenant in the side building whose circumstances are reduced through sickness and being out of work for a long time, and I must ask him to vacate. During mother's sickness I sold our seats in the church, except two; I rented one for 35 *Silbergroschen*, and the other is for my own use of course. The yard and our little garden are used by Burcher. Since our dear mother left us I have got along without worries, and I have had enough for my needs through God's great kindness; however, I shall have to look for work of some kind if the repairs increase and my income continues to decrease.

My dear Gustavus, do not worry too much about me. Our good Lord has helped me till now; He will not forget me and He will hold His hands. . . .

ST. LOUIS, MO., May 18, 1849.

Dear Julia:

Your kind letter of February 19 reached me on April 7, and I trust that you received my letter of March 4 too. Since then we have had a violent epidemic of cholera in St. Louis, and from twenty to thirty people are dying every day. Of all our friends, only C. L. Biermann, of Herford, has died so far, and we and our relatives are enjoying good health up to this date, also friend Willibald Moll and Holthaus.

The real reason why I am writing this letter is to tell you that last night about forty steamboats and about two hundred houses were ruined by fire. The fire was extinguished by one o'clock this afternoon, but many of our best friends are hard hit, for example:

F. E. Schmieding, store

Wm. Kayser, his brother-in-law and partner, furniture

Carl Meyer, brother-in-law of Wm. Kayser, store and home

Carl Nohl's brother, restaurant and furniture, about \$2000.00

Fred Dings, of Solingen, three stores.

Moll and Holthaus live with the Fred Dings, but they succeeded in saving their belongings. Besides the above mentioned, we have many other friends who lost everything. Our house was far away from the fire. Mother, Mathilde, and our porter stayed at home, but all the others hastened to render help. We succeeded in so far that the losses were limited to: Schmieding about five hundred, Kayser about one hundred, and Carl Meyer about one thousand dollars.

No doubt your newspapers will bring reports about the conflagration, and I am writing today so that you may know that the fire did no harm to us at all, and to the above mentioned relatives and friends comparatively little. Please notify Moll's mother without delay. Carl's firm was spared and he did not lose his position; his friend Moll will find another position quickly, as he is a clever young man.

Jansen, of Rade-vorm-Wald, has not arrived as yet. Julius gave up his position and he is with another firm in New Orleans; I do not know the name of his new firm, as he has not written for a long time, and I know this through a friend. I am going to answer your letter soon. I just want you to know that we are all right and that our home did not burn down. I wrote to Abraham Kruse immediately after getting your letter. The business of Wolff, Hoppe and Speck was destroyed by the fire; the latter is a son of the widow Speck, whom you mentioned in your last letter. It seems that Schroder will do nothing for his sister, or possibly, he can do nothing for her. We do not intend to go to California. We have heard nothing of Spicker. As I said before, I shall answer your kind letter, which pleased us very much, within a short time.

Until then, farewell, my dear; be happy and thank our good Lord that He has protected us, and do not feel oppressed with gloomy forebodings, as this shows poor judgment and lack of confidence in our Creator.

Good bye now,
Your GUSTAVUS.

Prepaid, by first steamer from New York to Liverpool.

St. Louis, Mo., May 20 (1849).

Lennepe, June 14 (1849).

Total postage-fee forty-one cents.

ST. LOUIS, MO., June 15, 1849.

Dear Julia:

I wrote you on March 4 and also on May 18, and I trust that you received both letters by the time you get this. Your kind letter of February 19 arrived on April 7; my letter of May 18 was a preliminary answer.

With reference to the fire I wish to add that F. E. Schmieding's loss was fully covered by insurance; however, he suffers indirect losses on account of losing business this year. His partner, Wm. Kayser, suffered a loss of a hundred to a hundred and fifty dollars on his furniture, but the loss of his brother-in-law, Carl Meyer, amounts to two thousand, and not to one thousand dollars, as I wrote before. Adolph Nohl lost his entire equipment, amounting to about two thousand dollars. Willibald Moll and his friend Holthaus saved their belongings. Moll now has a position in a hardware store and he is doing well. Carl did not lose his position, as the store of his employers remained undamaged, though it is located in that section of the city which burned down. Carl and all of us enjoy good health up to this date. Four hundred and eighteen houses and twenty-eight steamboats were destroyed by the fire. Considerable rebuilding is being done already, and very few traces will be left in a year from now. The cholera is increasing lately. Eighty-three persons were buried and sixty-five died yesterday. We take all the precautions possible and we trust that our Lord will spare us.

By the way, we have prepared ourselves for all eventualities; I have made a testament, and we have talked the matter over thoroughly as to what should be done in case of a sudden death in our family. If I pass away, Christiane will not become a partner in the business, but Gildehaus will take it over alone, or, he and Carl may enter a partnership. Christiane will get the rent for the house, and interest on the paid-in capital; this will amount to at least one dollar per day, and this will cover her needs. The children are old enough to take care of themselves, if necessary. Of course, dear Julia, this information is confidential and strictly for yourself, and not for others.

Wm. Kayser lost his one-year-old daughter, but his wife, Carl Meyer's sister, is expecting a baby within a short time; they went to his mother and sister in St. Charles last Friday for an extended rest. Shortly before leaving St. Louis, he, his wife, and his sister—Carl Meyer's wife—went to Schmieding's to say good-bye; Mrs.

Carl Meyer became sick, went to bed and gave birth to a baby girl. Mother and daughter were feeling well, and everything seemed to be all right, when Mother and Mathilde called on them last Sunday. When they came home they told us over and over that it was a wonderful baby, and that Mrs. Meyer was feeling fine. It was raining on Monday and nobody left our house. On Tuesday we heard that Mrs. Meyer became ill Sunday evening at ten o'clock, died of cholera Monday afternoon at three o'clock, and was buried Tuesday morning. The baby is all right. Wednesday morning Carl Meyer took sick with the cholera, but he came through, and he is out of danger though very weak. They intend to take the baby to Mrs. Knust, who is a sister of the late Mrs. Meyer, and who had a baby herself two weeks ago. She is strong and healthy and well able to nurse her own and also her sister's child. Mrs. Knust has been a widow for six months. How terrifying this will be to Wm. Kayser when they bring the little baby, and when they hear of the sudden death of the baby's mother.

That is enough about human sufferings; we sympathize deeply with all of them without being able to help. I have no doubt that you never received a letter like this before. May God grant that my next letter may bring more pleasant news. We are feeling all right; we are living in a high section of the city, and nobody in our immediate neighborhood has become sick so far. Fritz, his wife, and children are feeling all right too.

Judging from the latest reports, things seem to look queer over there; the latest news from Elberfeld, Hagen, and vicinity is dated May 13, but there is no news from Lennep or Osnabrück. We hope to get a letter from you soon; how about your trip to Osnabrück? Jansen, of Rade-vorm-Wald, has not arrived as yet. Mr. Kraus, of Linzerhausen, wrote that he is unable to come, as he cannot sell his property at the present time. The cholera is in New York too, but not as bad as here. Have you heard anything further about Albert Kruse? I have had letters from five friends, all of whom wish to come to this country, and they inquire about how, when, if, where, and so forth.

I shall answer your letter now. How much postage fee did you have to pay on my letter of May 18? When I think of your premonitions, it might have been better if I had refrained from writing you of the sad events; however, I always prefer to state conditions as they actually are, and I trust that you are sensible enough not to worry on account of presentiments. All the things which you sent

by Moll arrived safely, and we wish to thank you most heartily for your great kindness. We have heard nothing of Fred Dahn or the others from Lennep. We did not associate much with the widow Speck, and we had no idea that she moved so close to Lennep, otherwise we would have asked her to call on you. We live just as near to the edge of the city as Wirths or Schlingens do. Herman Schroder is a lawyer now and he is getting along all right.

We have heard nothing new from Valdorf except that Carl is still doing nothing, that he lives with August, and that all of them are feeling well. Schroder does not seem to be able to do anything for his sister. If Mrs. Westenfeld wishes to come over here, and if she has enough money to pay for the trip, I can only advise her to do so, provided however, that she can, or is willing to work; she will soon find out that she will do better in this country than over there. Of course she should not come at the present time, as emigrants are easy victims of the cholera, as they are not acclimated. We still entertain hopes of seeing Germany once more, but we do not know whether we can do it. Every day we get new assurances of the finding of gold in California, but we do not intend to go there. Many who started out for California have returned after covering one quarter of the distance, as the trip is too troublesome. We have a home, food, and clothing, and all this without worries; why should we wish more? Julius Wusthoff is now with Bodeke and Co. in New Orleans, and we hear that he is doing well. We have heard nothing further about Spicker.

I do not wish to write about politics any more as our opinions differ too much. Hearty greetings to our dear cousins from all of us. One of the dikes broke in New Orleans, and half of the city is two feet under water; they have to use boats in the streets, but Julius is not suffering from this. We expect to get high water too. On account of the cold weather the mountains have remained covered with snow and ice unusually long, and now the sudden heat is melting everything all at once. Do not ask Burcher any more to write, as I do not wish to renew our old acquaintance. If I do start a new correspondence, it must be with a sincere republican only. I heard that Nohl might take a trip to Germany; if this should be realized, I will ask him to call on you; however, I very much doubt that he will go in these troublesome times.

Farewell, my dear Julia. Keep us in loving memory, extend our greetings to our dear cousins, and write soon again. We are greeting you with heartfelt love, particularly Christiane and Mathilde;

there is nothing in view in regard to maternal joy or the pleasures of grandfatherhood.

Greetings and kisses,
from your
GUSTAVUS.

Prepaid by first steamer via Liverpool and Cologne.

No cancellation stamps.

Letter arrived in Lennep July 18, 1849.

ST. LOUIS, MO., July 30, 1849.

Dearly beloved Julia:

Since writing my two letters of May 18 and June 15 I have been without a word from you, but I expect to hear from you before mailing this letter, as I intend to mail it on August 12, so that the letter may reach the next steamer to Bremen.

Since writing my last letter all of us, with the exception of Carl, have been more or less sick; we had an attack of cholera, but we are well again through God's great kindness. Fritz was sick in the worst manner, and when he began to improve, he had a severe bilious attack, but he overcame this too, and he is working again in the store. I am happy that I can write today that every one of us is feeling well. We thank our Lord that He protected us so visibly.

One hundred and ninety-two was the highest number of cholera victims who died in St. Louis in one day of twenty-four hours. Last week they died on an average of ten per day, and this gives us a reasonable hope that the horrible disease may be soon a matter of the past.

We had a letter from Cincinnati today informing us that my brother-in-law, Ph. H. Pauck, passed away on the 25th after a ten-hours sickness of cholera. His children are all grown, and they take good care of their mother, who is Christiane's half-sister. The old boy was always happy, and he had announced his intention to visit us next fall only a short time ago. All other members of our and the Schmieding family are feeling all right. Edward Kayser, a brother of Wm. Kayser, passed away. Moll told me yesterday that his brother and family may be on the ocean.

We are eager to hear from you, as we should like to know if you went to Osnabrück, and how all of you are getting along. Mrs.—I have forgotten her name, but you know whom I mean, her husband used to work in Altenberg—died of cholera; they had acquired

a nice fortune of about eight thousand dollars. We hear nothing from our friends in New York. The cholera is in New York too, and almost everywhere in America, and we hear that it is also in Germany, Russia, France, and England. Jansen has not arrived yet. A boy by the name of Funkenhausen is learning the barber trade here; he ran away from his stepfather, who is a shoemaker in Lennep. Barbering is a better trade in this country than over there.

I do not know much to write about this time; my main intention is to tell you that the cholera is diminishing, and that all of us are well. I doubt that there are more than twenty families in St. Louis who did not lose some one, and there are many houses in which every occupant died.

Funeral processions to one of the ten St. Louis cemeteries must pass our house, and there were many days on which we counted twenty or more. There were some days on which you saw nothing but funerals on the streets. Business was at a complete standstill, and many stores were closed. F. E. Schmieding closed up for six weeks, but he opened up last week. We kept our store open all the time; thank God, the greatest danger seems to have passed and we hope it will remain so.

August 11, 1849.

You will see from the enclosed clipping that thirty-four people passed away last week, and this week it is less than twenty; it seems that the horrible sickness may be almost over. We are feeling all right.

Now something new and most interesting. You know that Carl was seventeen years old last July 7, and this is really too young to become engaged; however, circumstances alter cases, and Carl accepted yesterday an engagement with his Uncle Frederick Edward Schmieding. For several reasons the latter decided to give up his fashion shop and dry goods store, and to sever connections with his brother-in-law and former partner, Wm. Kayser, who will take the business over by himself. Fritz made up his mind to open up a hardware business, with Carl as partner; Fritz knows nothing about that line, and Carl has acquired the necessary knowledge during the past three years.

For the time being Fritz will invest \$3500.00, and in the course of the first year an additional \$2500.00. Carl will invest \$250.00, which he has saved, and they intend to equalize the difference of capital with a low interest rate. In the first year Carl will get one-third of the profits and Fritz two-thirds; for the second year and

the following years the profits or losses are to be divided equally; the agreement to run for ten years. You will understand that these conditions are fair to both parties; Carl's lack of business experience, on account of his great youth, is counter-balanced by the practical knowledge of his partner, and I do not doubt that their enterprise will be a success.

To be sure, it would be better if Carl were older and more experienced, but it is not wise to pass up such an excellent opportunity, as many years may pass before such a chance offers itself again of finding a reliable and experienced partner with the necessary capital. I have known Uncle Fritz for more than twenty years, and I really do not know of a better partner for Carl. Our Fritz will enter their store as an apprentice.

They have already found a suitable location, and I believe they will start their new business by September 1. This ought to convince you of the great advantages which this country offers in comparison with the conditions in Germany. Where do you find in Germany a young man without capital of his own, who is earning at the age of fourteen one hundred dollars per annum, at the age of fifteen, one hundred and twenty-five dollars with room and board, at the age of sixteen, three hundred and seventy-five dollars per annum, and who at seventeen years finds a suitable business partner with a capital of six thousand dollars?

Mr. Nohl may have called on you before you get this letter, and I trust that he had a nice visit with you; if he is still in Lennep, please give him our kindest regards. We are really eager to hear from you and we expect to get a letter almost any day. Conditions are beginning to be normal again; my hope of becoming a grandfather may not be realized so soon, but we are happy just the same and grateful that every one of us is again enjoying good health.

Did you go to Osnabrück? Did you get my two last letters? Are you feeling well? How are the conditions in Germany now? Do you know any friends who wish to go to America? Has anything happened worth mentioning? How are our dear cousins? These are questions we should like to have answered.

Extend our greetings to all our relatives in Barmen, Osnabrück, etc.

We have heard nothing from Julius Wusthoff for a long time; he is with Bodeke & Co. in New Orleans. We know nothing new about Albert Spicker. Schroder does not seem to be able to help his relatives; he has not called on us for a long time. If you have not written in the meantime, we trust that you will not delay writing any longer.

Farewell now; greetings to our friends and relatives, and accept our heartiest greetings, particularly from Christiane and Mathilde, and extra greetings from

Your loving brother,
GUSTAVUS.

Paid all.

Per steamer via Bremen.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., August 12 (1849).

New York, September 12 (1849).

Lennepe, October 12 (1849).

Postage fee: St. Louis—New York .10

New York—Bremen .24

Bremen—Lennepe .12

Total .46

ST. LOUIS, MO., December 17, 1849.

Dear Julia:

My last letters were dated June 15 and August 11, and I have received your kind letter of June 19 since then, and also verbal news through Mr. Nohl, who arrived here toward the end of October.

Mr. Moll and family arrived here safely on November 24. I should have notified you of their arrival sooner, but I was waiting for the package with letters, etc., which you gave the Molls. They shipped some of their cases by freight boat from Philadelphia to St. Louis, and this explains the delay. Your package contained a number of copies of the *County News*, four caps, two pieces of lace-work, a purse, a medal commemorating the cathedral-church of Cologne, and a short description of the cathedral, but no letters from you. I went immediately to Moll's to ask about the letters, and they told me that Friedrich Wüsthoff brought a sealed package to them which was wrapped in black oilcloth, and that Friedrich mentioned nothing about letters. Mr. Moll took it for granted that the package contained letters. Mrs. Moll placed it in the case without looking at the seal, and the case was not opened before reaching St. Louis, where they turned the package over to me just as they received it. I thought at first that you might have written something about their circumstances, and that this might have caused them to destroy the letters, but I gave up this thought when I read in the *County News* about his business failure. If he had destroyed your letters for this reason, he certainly would have

destroyed the *County News* too. Besides, he gave me his word of honor that the package had not been opened while it was in his possession. I have to believe this, but I should like to hear from you about it. If you placed a letter in the package, then ask Friedrich, as he must remember to whom he gave it, and please tell me if your letter was sealed. When I received the package, it was wrapped in black oilcloth, it was not sealed but was tied with a string. The contents were in first class order, and we wish to thank you for your kindness. It seems strange that Nohl mentioned to us that he had no letters because you had given them to the Molls, and that you told him you had to pass up this opportunity, as you knew nothing to write about just now.

Nohl and Moll told us the latest news of Lennep, and also about the cholera; but we have heard nothing from you directly since your last letter of June 19. I am curious to find out what you have to say about this. It is hard for me to believe that you did not write per Moll, and I believe that Moll has intercepted a letter from you. Such actions would be found out, and they would place Moll in a bad light; furthermore, he gave me his word of honor.

The Moll and Clage families made a good impression on us, and they seem to be all right as far as we can judge in the short time of our acquaintance. We assisted both families as much as we could, and we intend to help them further. Old man Clage has a position in a factory in Belleville, in the State of Illinois, about fourteen miles from here, and he will move to Belleville as soon as his wife, who arrived sick, is well again. Young Clage has a position in a store in St. Louis.

Moll has not found anything as yet; his wife suffers from a disagreeable sickness, and it may not be easy to find a suitable position for him under these circumstances. A brother of our friend Holthaus arrived a few days ago, and he is employed by a gold- and silver-smith. I heard the other day that a son of geometer Henseler has been in St. Louis since last summer, but he has never called on us.

Now to answer your last letter. We are feeling well, we are happy, and business is good. Uncle Fritz and Carl started a hardware business October 1, and they are doing well, considering the general conditions. They understand each other, and I have no doubt that they will make a success of it. I call on them almost every day. Our Fritz works under Carl's guidance, and I am confident that he too is on the road to success. Both boys spend their Sundays with us and they have little spare time during the week. I enclose one of their business cards. The chances for your becoming a

great-aunt are still slim. Carl's intended trip to Germany must be postponed, but later on, when he goes to New York on business, he may take a little detour through Germany; but these are pious wishes for the future.

It sounds unbelievable to you that they erect 1,000 new houses per year in St. Louis; well, they built only 700 or 800 this year on account of the cholera, but the average for the past three years was 1,000 to 1,200. When we came here St. Louis had about 12,000 houses, and the section in which we live now was a forest; and when we lived in Cincinnati, they talked of St. Louis as being a village.

How did you like Mr. Nohl? He tells us that he forgot to give you the cloth; however, he sent it to you from Frankfort, and we trust that you received it. I still believe that Fritz Springmann will come to this country, and I am certain that he would never regret this; on the contrary, he will feel sorry that he did not take this step long ago. What do you know about Abraham Kruse? Did he get my letter, and does he still intend to go to America? Clage told me that one of his sons married a rich young widow of Mülheim a/d Ruhr. Mr. Morschbach, who told me about Springer, is a complete stranger to me; you have confused him with my Ronsdorfer friend Fösthoff. How are the teacher Kauert, of Meinerhagen, and his wife Amalie? Did you get an opportunity to inquire about them?

We have heard that old man Kirberg and his two sons, Carl von Berg, and Arnold Hager, owner of the Hotel Berliner Hof, have passed away. How is Meta Springmann's husband; did he die, or how is he? They should come to St. Louis, unless they prefer to drudge all their lives. Give them our best regards and tell them that we hope they will come to St. Louis. We have heard nothing about Arnold Stoter and his sister. Tell me in your next letter how much postage fee you had to pay for this letter. I am really surprised to hear that Cousin Ludwig Springmann is getting so stout; I hope that he does not idolize his belly too much (*seinen Bauch zum Abgott macht*). I can tell nothing about Julius Wusthoff, as he has discontinued writing. Goldsmith Holthaus left a package with us from his brother Friedrich Wusthoff, to be given to Julius. He praised Friedrich very much and he told us that he is a nice respectable, modest, obliging, and kind young man; and when we asked him what he thought of Julius, he said that he could tell this in a few words, namely, that he was the exact opposite of his brother.

We enjoyed reading the description of Henriette Hellingrath's trip; broadly speaking the report is good, but in some things she is

too rash and consequently incorrect. I do not know much about Mr. Becker, of Strasserhoff, I met him on the street a short time ago, he looked well, was neatly dressed, and he told me that he was getting along all right. Koster died of cholera, and Holthaus tells me that he wrote many lies to Kötter, among others that he was a Justice of the Peace. He tried to induce Kötter to come to this country, and I feel that this was not right on his part. Koster did not enjoy a good reputation; they say that he lived with a woman of doubtful character after his wife's death, and he distinguished himself chiefly through his stinginess and stupidity. We have heard nothing of Kraus. If I am not mistaken, I have already acknowledged receipt of the package per Jansen. Who bought Wirth's house? I feel sorry for the German people who have such a hard struggle, and I know that most of them could be better off if they were in this country. If they accomplish nothing else over here, they are at least independent.

It is very comforting to me to see from your report that you do not suffer want, and I advise you to stay over there as long as it remains that way, as it is difficult to adapt yourself to new and strange conditions, and to break away from old customs and habits. The Clages, for instance, are completely lost, at least for the present. The wife is sick, the husband without an income, the living expenses are high, and the doctor bills still higher, and all their money is gone. I certainly feel sorry for these good people and also for Moll; he has a sick wife too and no income; and we consider it our duty to help them as much as we can. When their wives are well again, and when the husbands get a regular income, their conditions will improve quickly, but nothing is so hard as the beginning. When I think of our start when we did not know a soul in America, whew! I shudder, and we are grateful to our Lord that He helped us to overcome this. I call on these good people almost every day and I cheer them up as well as I can and I encourage them.

The two families live together and I know that they appreciate my efforts. In spite of everything, they have one advantage over us, as they have at least someone who takes an interest in their welfare, and this is more than we had. I hope to be able to give you better news of them later. I am going to answer Burcher's letter the next time, otherwise this letter will be too long. I have no news of Albert Spicker. Wm. Kayser took over the business which he had in partnership with Uncle Fritz, and he is doing well. Carl Meyer, his brother-in-law, has opened up a new store. Our insurance companies paid everything and half of the destroyed district has been

rebuilt with fireproof buildings, and everything will be completed in a year from now.

We expect to get a letter from you almost any day, as we have not had a single word from you since June 19. Heartiest greetings to our dear cousins and tell them we are all right, and that our good Lord preserved us from cholera, fire, and other misfortune. Our business is good. We love our son-in-law just as well as our own children. Fritz has a nice position with Uncle Fritz, and his brother Carl takes a greater interest in him than a stranger would. Carl's business is good too, and I do not doubt that it will improve more and more. He has a good chance to accumulate a fair fortune by the time he is twenty-five years old unless something unforeseen happens. He is a business man through and through.

Mother went up town to see Santa Claus in spite of the severe cold weather. I am going to give her a carpet for our bedroom, and Carl will give her a carpet for our best room. I do not know what the others intend to give as they are keeping it a secret.

Do not send any more letters by an opportunity, but send them by mail only; they arrive more quickly, and the postage charge is not so important. Please tell me also if you had to pay anything on my last letter, and how much; it was marked "Paid all."

Farewell, my dear Julia. Please surprise us with a long letter and accept heartiest greetings from Mother and Mathilde, and from all the others. We enjoyed reading the *County News*, but we notice many new names in it. Moll and Clage tell us more news every day, as it comes to their minds, and we begin to realize that much has changed since we left. I wonder if conditions will become so that Mother and I can take a trip to Germany. I am certain that many of our old friends will come to this country. Thank God, we left Germany when we were younger; we feel perfectly at home in America.

It won't be long before we reach old age, but, old or young, I am

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Paid all.

By first Royal Mail Steamer
via Liverpool.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., December 19 (1849).

C L

22 Ja. 22

1850

Lennepe, 25. Januar, 1850 (January 25, 1850).

ST. LOUIS, MO., January 14, 1850.

My dear Julia:

My last letter was dated December 17 and it was my answer to your letter of June 19. On January 5 I received your kind letter of November 3, which is partly answered in my last letter; we are all enjoying good health and we are pleased and happy; we have well grounded hopes of an increase in our family. May God grant that everything turns out well, and I hope to be able to send you a birth announcement late in September or early in October.

Though I do not think much of premonitions, I must admit that it is a strange coincidence that our mutual thoughts and minds were moving in the same channels on last August 9. My letter of August 12 was really started on Thursday, August 9; I merely dated it Sunday, August 12, as this was the day when I completed the letter. I am in the habit of beginning my letters by telling you about our health, and I did this undoubtedly in my letter of August 12 also; in other words, I wrote you on August 9 that all of us were well. On August 9 we had unusually small receipts, and this leads me to believe that it was raining on that day; and as a rule I write on week days only when rain prevents me from taking care of my business in the regular way. When the weather is good, I am always so busy that I do not find time to write letters. As far as we can remember, I started the letter on the 9th, finished it on the 12th, and posted it on the 13th.

We are pleased to note from your last letter that our good Lord has protected you and our dear cousins from sickness and that all of you are well, and we are really glad that we can say the same about us. Business conditions are fair, and Uncle Fritz and Carl are satisfied too. Fritz is learning well, and I trust that he will become a good business man. I am glad to see from your answer that you did not send a letter by Moll, and that our suspicion was groundless. Moll's wife is very sick, and I am pretty sure that she has consumption. He went into a partnership with a Mr. Heuser, of Remlingrade. They started a brewery in St. Charles, Missouri, a small town about the size of Lüttringhause, approximately twenty miles, or six hours, from here. Mr. Heuser learned the business in Germany, and he worked here in a brewery for several months; and, since they have started under favorable conditions, I am confident that they will be successful.

Goldsmith Holthaus had no trouble getting a position; his brother works in the same store where Bernard Dieckriede, a stepbrother of Henry Gildehaus, is employed. Willibald Moll intends

to start a hardware store with another young man. Nohl tells me that he has entered partnership with his brother in Germany. He is expecting a large shipment of cloth, Bielefeld linen, and Rhine wine, and he intends to sell wholesale. He expects his brother to come here by next fall, and it may be possible that his brother may stay in this country. Young Funkenhausen works in a barber shop, but I do not know where, and I can tell you nothing about him. With reference to Spicker I can only say that you misunderstood Mr. Mohl. Spicker was a teamster in Galveston, Texas, two years ago; he is not hauling goods between two seaports, but he hauls goods from the seaport to different warehouses in Galveston. I used to know a gentleman in Galveston, but he moved away, and I have no way of finding out anything about Albert Spicker. If I get an opportunity, I shall gladly make inquiries and write you about it; please give our best regards to his parents.

Nohl told me that the trip cost fifteen hundred dollars for him and his sixteen-year-old stepson, or about 2300 Prussian *Taler*, and when I remarked that at least one-third was due to levity, as I was certain that I could make the trip on five hundred dollars easily, even on three to four hundred dollars, he had to admit the correctness of my statement. During his absence his wife has been running the boarding house alone. This is not a hotel or inn, it is a place where fifty or more young people, mostly clerks, eat their meals, but sleep at their places of business. They have no sleeping rooms and no accommodations such as stables, etc.

The cholera is a thing of the past, and we sincerely trust that this horrible disease will not come back.

Madame Speck returned to St. Louis about January 1. When we came to St. Louis from Louisville, we became acquainted with her, but we found out soon that she was not the type of person we should like to associate with, and we broke off. She is an artful, cunning, and wide-awake woman; her husband died early, and they tell me that she lived in poor circumstances years ago; she has been on familiar terms with Overhoff and several other gentlemen. We came to the conclusion that it would be better if we had nothing to do with her.

It was the same with Koster. When his wife died, he lived with a woman who had divorced her husband, and his distinguishing qualities were stinginess and outstanding stupidity; he also had the talent for writing to his friend Kotter in Germany gross and extraordinarily stupid lies. I know this from Holthaus, who read his letters. Kotter can congratulate himself that he did not follow

the bad advice of his false friend. Do not misunderstand me, I do not mean to say that I would advise Kotter not to come to this country, as this depends upon his conditions and circumstances. Judging from the information I have from Holthaus, I can safely say that Koster tried to induce Kotter to come to America under misrepresentation of facts, and this is contemptible. We never did associate with Koster.

I may answer Burcher's scribble some other time. The expected high water did not come to pass; 168 of the 418 ruined houses have been rebuilt at a cost of \$665,700.00; the others will be finished by the end of the year, and very few traces of the disaster will be left by that time. We are glad to hear that Meta finally has reached her port of rest, or unrest—

*Geteilter Schmerz ist halber Schmerz,
Geteilte Freude ist doppelte Freude.*

Sadness shared is half as bad,
And gladness shared is twice as glad.

Carl von Berg's children have certainly suffered a severe loss. Did Carl Eickelberg pass away, or are his circumstances so reduced that his wife had to die in an infirmary? I presume you mean by infirmary a hospital for the poor. Did Abraham Kruse get my letter?

You write: "When we realize that we are sinners, when we repent, when we ask our Lord to deliver us from evil, and when we beg Him in our prayers to withdraw the punishment imposed on us, then God will repent His punishment, and He will be merciful and kind again." My creed is: "God's righteousness will never place Him in a position where He has to repent of something, as God is never unmerciful and unkind, for righteousness is always the same"; and I would say: "God has attained His aim by punishing us, and by being punished we shall soon realize His divine grace, which in reality had never ceased to exist." I believe that we agree in our ideas and disagree only in our manner of expressing ourselves.

You say: "Oh, it must be terrible to be punished by our Lord," and in another place: "Fear Him who is able to destroy you in hell, body and soul, for He will deny those who deny Him." I believe that God created man in His likeness, and He wishes every one of us to enter eternal happiness; and God can do what He wishes to do. I do not believe that there is an everlasting damnation, but I do believe that all mankind will attain eternal happiness in the end, either by the shorter or the longer route, as this is God's will. I

believe that God is Love, and love condemns no one for all eternity! When God punishes us, He does not intend to deprive us of the opportunity to obtain eternal happiness, as such a punishment would miss its aim. God does not impose punishment on us out of vengeance, He punishes us out of love, and out of love only. Think this over and tell me if you agree with me, or if you believe in a God of anger and revenge, in an eternal hell and a mass of fire, and in an everlasting condemnation.

We were highly pleased to see that all of you went to Barmen, and this would have been pleasing news to us, even if you had gone there with the sole intention of avoiding the cholera. We consult a physician when we are sick, we strive to follow his instructions, and we exercise all possible means, why? for no other reason, except trying to recover from a sickness which God inflicted upon us.

It is true that Mother and Mathilde are frequently mistaken for sisters. My corpulence is not so bad, as I weigh only 220 lbs. Carl Meyer had the cholera, but he recovered, and I met him today. I wonder if it will remain quiet in Germany; the general impression is here that more trouble may start in the spring. There are no mail steamers between New York and Bremen this winter. I paid the postage fee on several letters all the way to Lennep, but I see that you had to pay too; others have had the same experience; therefore, in the future I shall mail letters in the old way, and I am going to wait until matters are better regulated. I wrote you in my last letter that Jansen arrived safely and with him your things. They tell me that Kraus has made his home in Cincinnati. I hear that William Overhoff was drowned by accident, and others say that he committed suicide. We spend many evenings reading the *County News*, and it has amused me very much. Reports from California are still good. We hear nothing from Julius Wusthoff. Many emigrants come from Westphalia and most of the inquiries which I have had came from there too. We have no apprentice in our store.

The story about *Feuern* in place of *Feiern* is correct. This was a misprint, and the newspaper was not so wrong when they said in their correction that "shooting" would have helped more than "celebrating," as any patient with common sense would send for a doctor before sending for a pastor. During the cholera it was considered very effective to burn pitch and sulphur in the streets or in the yards, and we did this in our yard.

The story: *Pfaffe, mach's kurz!*, "Parson, cut it short!" is fabricated without any doubt, at least I think so; I have never heard

it nor anything like it. Many come from Germany with the intention of converting the heathens, i. e. Indians, into Christians, and when they come to St. Louis, they like it so well, that they stay here in preference to going to the Indians. They write lying stories to Germany, stating that the Germans in this country need a shepherd more than the Indians, and they use this for a pretext. I know a Swiss missionary who did this, and I am sure that there are others who do the same thing. You may rest assured that the Germans in this city are not a whit better, or worse, than they are anywhere else, and please do not believe that such letters are the gospel truth. Such letters are mostly written by people who are not sincere. Many preachers are false pretenders, as anybody may preach in this country, and many use this form to hide their real character by feigning religion.

Hearty greetings to all our cousins. Who is this Herman von Baur who married into the Ringel family? Is Minchen Ringel still living *am Markt*? Did she get married, and how is she getting along? Mother tells me I should not have mentioned the expected increase in our family, as it was too early to say anything about this. I shall write in a later letter if my hopes are well founded, or if they are nothing but wind, wind, wind, and more wind.

My letter is almost completed, and I shall now answer your question regarding your will and testament, which you intend to make. I believe it is well for you to make a testament soon; and, after talking the matter over and considering it most carefully, we came to the conclusion that it would be best if you bequeath everything you possess at the time of your departure to my three children who are living now, i. e.,

Johanne Christine Mathilde, born in Lennep,	March 25, 1831 ¹
Carl Wilhelm,	" " Bielefeld, July 7, 1832 ²
Gustav Friedrich,	" " " March 18, 1834 ³

and also to such children as may be born by Friederike Christiane, née Schmieding, of Bielefeld, with the stipulation that we, the parents (either both or one of us) shall have the right of managing your estate and using the income for ourselves, without impairing the substance.

¹ Married to Christian Rudolph Heinrich Gildehaus, of Osnabrück, on December 26, 1847.

² Merchant and at the present time business partner of Friedrich Eduard Schmieding, under the firm of Schmieding and Wulfin.

³ Commercial clerk.

As executor of your testament I should prefer to see Mr. Arnold Wilhelm Hardt, of course with his consent, or a suitable member of the Hilger family. I also deem it advisable to state in your will that your entire estate should be converted into ready money right after your departure, that all your debts and funeral expenses be paid, and that the executor, or his legal representative, shall transfer the remaining amount either to me, my wife, or to our descendants as the case may be. Do not overlook mentioning that the share of a minor child is to be transferred also, as such a share, or shares, will be taken care of in accordance with existing American laws, either by me, my wife, or such children as are of age.

To comply with your request I shall tell you now of our relation with Julius Wusthoff. On January 1, 1845 he owed me \$20.00, and when he returned from the Mexican war, he borrowed \$10.00. He paid the \$10.00 back when he left for New Orleans, and he promised to pay the \$20.00 within a short time. He paid interest in the first year only, and on January 1, 1850 his debt amounted to \$28.00. He was in New Orleans when the soldiers were paid in St. Louis, and I tried to collect the money for him, but I could not do it, as I had no power of attorney. I wrote Julius about this as we were on friendly terms at that time; I called his attention to the fact that he could collect his claim in New Orleans himself, as this would eliminate giving me power of attorney, etc., and I considered the matter closed.

On a sudden I received a very impolite letter from Julius stating that all the other soldiers were paid in St. Louis except him, and that I failed to notify him that the money was available. In my answer I explained to him that I had done everything I could, and that I wrote and informed him of this about two years ago. Furthermore, I mentioned that he should refrain from writing me such impolite letters, as I did not deserve such treatment from him; but, if he did not intend to write in a different manner, I should prefer to get no letters at all; however, I expected the money he owed me. He answered that he would send the money when it was most convenient to him. This ended our correspondence, and I have never heard from him direct since.

You state that the old house and the side building cause you much trouble, and I can understand this well. Don't you think it would be best to sell everything now, even if you have to sell comparatively cheap, and to invest the remaining amount in mortgages? Under present conditions I consider mortgages safer in this country than in Germany, and they bring from 8 to 10 per cent in America,

compared with 4 or 5 per cent over there. Any one who knows the conditions, as I do, or Henry Hardt in New York, will have no trouble in finding a safe investment at 10 per cent interest. I invested \$500.00 for Willibald Moll at 10 per cent for one year with double security. Talk this over with Arnold Hardt and do not wait too long for better times.

My dear Julia, I have to finish now. Herman Schroder called on us the other day and he told us he had been divorced for more than three years, and he intended to marry a Miss Klaus, of St. Louis. We do not know her, but we are told that she is a well educated young lady of twenty without money. Schroder is still the same old careless fellow he always was; he seems to lead a respectable life now, he plays the part of a *notarius publicus*, and he is a sort of a pettifogger.

Farewell, my dear. Mathilde wishes to write a few lines to you. Keep us in kind memory and write soon again.

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Grandfather in Valdorf is very weak and if he passes away soon, it is possible that I may make up my mind to take a trip to Germany, provided however that conditions develop in such a way that I can go in safety and free from worries. This is strictly confidential, of course, so do not mention this to any one.

I wrote to Wm. Lehmann in Hustiford, Wisconsin, today; I trust that the address is correct, and I am curious to see if he will favor me with an answer.

By first Royal Mail Steamer to Liverpool.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., January 17 (1850).

C L

19 Fe., 19

1850

Lenep, 21. Februar (1850), (February 21, 1850).

The following is written in German and in German script.

ST. LOUIS, MO., January 15, 1850.

Dear Aunt Julia:

Please forgive me for not having answered your kind letter sooner. I did not neglect this for want of love and gratitude, but it seems that something else comes up every time I wish to write.

Your fine presents pleased us, or rather pleased me very much, and it was very thoughtful of you; I should have enjoyed them more if I could use these things now, but the time may come when your presents will be most useful.

The Winters wrote us a short time ago and they had sent some presents too. Augusta and Gretchen crocheted a beautiful spread for Mother which shows up well when placed over a darker one, and they sent me presents similar to yours. The Winter family is feeling all right, but grandfather is not so well; he is suffering from a hernia, and this is very dangerous at his advanced age; however, we trust that God may allow him to become well again.

We have been waiting a long time for a letter from you and we had begun to worry, when we heard of the cholera in Lennep. You can well imagine how it pleased us when we finally received your letter and when we heard that you were all right. God was kind to us too, as He preserved us from cholera and fire. It was a horrible time! and may God grant that such times do not come again. We had sad news from Osnabrück last fall, as my sister-in-law, Johanne Dieckriede, died of consumption. She passed away while praying.

My dear Aunt, I have to finish now, and I trust that this letter reaches you in the best of health. Many hearty greetings from all of us to you and our dear cousins.

I am your loving niece,
MATHILDE GILDEHAUS.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., April 22, 1850.

My dear Julia:

Your kind letter of February 8 arrived here on March 26, and I trust that my last letter of January 14, which was my answer to yours of November 2, reached you also. I am glad to be able to tell you that we are feeling well and contented. Business is good, and Uncle Fritz and Carl are doing well also.

It seems that our Fritz is on the right road too. After working for about five months in the firm of Schmieding and Wulfing, he came to the conclusion that the mercantile business was not the right thing for him, and he decided to become a wagon-maker. He started his apprenticeship with a reliable wagon-maker about the middle of March; he is getting along well so far, and he seems to like it. His place of business is only two blocks away, and he sleeps and spends

his Sundays with us. I believe it is best for Fritz to learn a trade and I am satisfied that he has picked the right trade.

I mentioned in my last letter that we expected an increase in the family but I have to correct this statement, as it was a great mistake, and we must practice more patience. We are still talking about our trip to Germany, and we have not given up hope that we actually will take the trip. Julius Wusthoff must be in Germany by the time you read this letter; on March 22 he wrote to Gildehaus: "Tomorrow I shall leave for Germany, and I intend to be back by November; if you wish me to bring anything for you, just write to Osnabrück." Last January I wrote to Wm. Lehmann and I outlined to him our experiences in America. He gave me a polite answer, adding that he was doing well and that he and a cousin of his wife own a sawmill together. We had a short but friendly letter from Valdorf; the aged father is suffering from a hernia and he must wear a truss; outside of that he is feeling well. It seems August gave up the idea of marrying again. Herman Moll has moved to St. Charles and started a brewery with a Mr. Heuser, of Remlingrade. He is doing well; his wife is improving and she hopes to regain her health completely. Willibald Moll intends to open up a hardware store, and I am confident he will be successful.

The two Holthausen are not getting along so well lately; both are hard of hearing, and this is a great disadvantage. The silversmith did not have enough work last winter and both earned very little; however, both are in good health and times will become better. I can find out nothing about Funkenhausen, Jansen, Albert Spicker, and Arnold Stoter. Do you know anything about Stoter, and do you know his address? If you do, please write me what you know, as this might be of help in case he calls on us.

Nohl has received his shipment of cloth from his brother, also wine and cigars; I doubt that his business will be a success. Nohl has no money of his own, and Carl Nohl in Germany may hold the bag in the end. It is understood that such information is strictly confidential, and that you mention nothing to others; besides, it is only my own opinion. Mrs. Nohl has a good boarding house, she is an excellent lady and you will not find many like her.

I am glad to see that you have adopted the rule of sending your letters by mail only, as this is more convenient and your letters arrive faster. Madame Speck is back in St. Louis; she puts on airs; and we hear that she staged a grand appearance everywhere in Germany; she can well afford to do this as she is fairly well off. Krieger has

a barroom, but he calls his place a "coffee house." Who bought Wirth's house? Our Christmas carpets are woven, they cost eighty cents per yard, or about fifty cents per Cologne ell, and they are ingrain, i. e. made of cotton and wool, and dyed before being woven. We had a long but mild winter, and on April 14 we had snow one foot deep.

It was not very nice of me to write that our pious Cousin Springmann idolizes his belly. I notice you were a little irritated about that, as you write: "He is not doing this, and he does not intend to do this." I admit that you are right and I deserve a reproach for this unkind remark; I thank you for doing this in such a nice way, but I wish to explain my action: When I called on Cousin Ludwig in 1833, he gave me a somewhat peculiar reception. When I entered his room he did not say something like, "Good afternoon, my dear cousin, how are you, please be seated, etc." No, he kept sitting on his sofa, looking over his enormous Bible, as if he were displeased at being disturbed on a Sunday afternoon, and when he saw who was calling, he said: "See here, dear cousin—my! you are getting stout, I hope you do not idolize your belly!" He acted so surprised that he did not offer me a seat, or anything else, but I sat down just the same. During our conversation I mentioned that I had bought a dress for my wife, and I admitted frankly that I intended to smuggle the dress into Prussia. He remonstrated and explained to me that smuggling was a sin, and I had to promise that I would not commit the awful sin of cheating our pious king.

About six weeks later his traveling salesman came to Bielefeld, asked to see me alone, and said: "I am representing your Cousin Springmann in Osnabrück, and he told me to see you in person and to ask you if you consider it risky to do business in Bielefeld without possessing a Prussian license. As Bielefeld is the only city in Prussia where he intends to sell goods, he does not care to pay for a license, as he would prefer to do no business in Bielefeld." I answered, if he would carry his samples in his pockets, there was hardly any risk of being caught; however, I knew that it was against Ludwig Springmann's principles to cheat our pious king. His answer was that Ludwig Springmann was a Hanoverian, and not a subject of the king of Prussia, that it was permissible for a Hanoverian to cheat the king of Prussia, and he had instructions to take an order if I thought it was not too risky, and he accepted my order.

Since that experience I have had a different opinion of Cousin Springmann's devotion and piety. When you wrote about his asthma, and when you mentioned how stout he was getting, the old incident

came back to mind. I merely repeated his own words, and this may demonstrate to you how extremely unkind such remarks sound, particularly when they come out of the mouth of a pious person.

We contemplate turning our business over to our children on June 30, 1855, in celebration of our silver wedding, and taking a trip to Germany in the fall of 1855; and we may stay in Germany for quite a while. I enclose a few lines for our friend Burcher. Thanks for Lenchen Burgman's greeting and please extend our heartfelt greetings to her and to all our other cousins. It would be pleasing news to hear from you that you had sold all the old buildings, etc., as this would eliminate all your annoyances. Herman Schroder, who makes a living as *notarius* and lottery-office keeper, married a German maiden of about thirty years of age without money. We do not associate with him, as his reputation is about as good as his credit, and his credit is bad.

Mother and all the others ask you to forgive them for not writing this time; Mother and Mathilde like cooking, sewing, etc. better than writing, but all of them wish to extend their heartiest greetings. I shall drop a few lines to Burcher now and so I must finish. If you get an opportunity to send us a few copies of the *County News*, please do so; they bring many recollections to our mind, and we in this way keep from becoming completely estranged from our old fatherland. Please extend our greetings to the teacher Kauert and his wife Amalie.

We hope to hear from you soon, and we trust that we may get good news. We wonder if you are going to get an opportunity to go to Osnabrück this summer. If you delay this trip for several more years, we may take the trip together in 1855, if it pleases our Lord.

Farewell, my dear Julia, and keep us in kind memory. Hearty greetings from all of us and particularly from

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

April 28, 1850.

No cancellation stamps.

Letter arrived in Lennep May 29, 1850.

ST. LOUIS, MO., June 14, 1850.

Dear Sister:

The bearer of this letter, Mr. Brass, of Born, a saddler, will leave for Germany within a few days, and he intends to return to St. Louis

next fall. He has known us since he came to St. Louis and he can tell you much about us; and for this reason I wish to introduce him to you.

I wrote you last on April 22-28, and this was my answer to your letter of February 8. Since then I have had no further news from you, but we expect a letter from you almost any day. We are eager to hear if you went to Osnabrück and how you are getting along. Thank God, we are in good health, but we have had some isolated cases of cholera in St. Louis.

Fritz, who was apprenticed to a wagon-maker, could not stand the hard work, as his growing so fast affected his health; Fritz is taller than Carl and I. We have taken him to the farm of Mr. Ferdinand Kayser, who is a brother-in-law of Schmieding. This will give him an opportunity to strengthen his body by working on the farm for one year, and also sufficient time to make up his mind whether he wants to become a farmer, or if he prefers to go back to wagon making. In this case his old job will be open to him.

Kayser's farm is thirty miles from here. Mother and I took Fritz to the farm in our little wagon; we had a pleasant trip, and we visited Herman Moll when passing through St. Charles. Mr. Moll is getting along all right with reference to his business, but I doubt that Mrs. Moll will regain her health. Her parents live with them, and they are enjoying good health. It would be better if they could afford to live by themselves and if they had an income of their own. I know nothing new about Willibald Moll; his business partner married a short time ago.

Uncle Fritz and Carl are doing well in every respect, and they are well satisfied. I wrote you about Adolph Nohl in my last letter, and I know nothing new about Spicker. Julius Wusthoff must be in Germany by this time. We should like to get a few copies of the *County News* through Mr. Brass.

If I am not mistaken, you asked about Wm. Overhoff in your last letter. We have heard that he lived before, during, and after his marriage with a certain Mrs. Leud, who was separated from her husband, and she was at the same time a very close and dear friend of Koster. Overhoff intended to go to California last year. Late one evening he wanted to go on a boat, but he must have made a false step—he was very short-sighted—as they found his body in the river the next day. His estate is managed by a Mr. Waldenspiegel, who is known to be upright and reliable; it consists of 100 acres of land and is valued at between \$1500.00 and \$2000.00.

Overhoff has a little girl of eight or nine years of age, who lives

with the above mentioned Mrs. Leud. This person has an extremely bad reputation, and it is absolutely essential to take the little girl away from her. I am told that she is a pretty little girl and very lively. Please notify her relatives of the situation and caution them not to betray the source of their information; that woman is dangerous, and it is better to have her not know who informed the relatives. It would be best if Wm. Lehmann came here and took the child either in a friendly way, or if necessary with the aid of the court. One thing is certain, if the relatives want to save the child, they must take her away from this woman. They tell me that this Mrs. Leud is smart and educated, and this makes her more dangerous. That is all for today; I know of nothing else to write about. Hearty greetings to you and to our dear cousins.

Your loving brother,
GUSTAVUS.

Just before sending this letter I hear that A. Nohl has given up his cloth-wine-cigars-tobacco-and-linen business, and that he is going to start a distillery now. This will make him a competitor of Cousin Carl Meyer, but it pleases me in so far as he realized early that his business was not a success. His new business belongs to the few lines which offer an opportunity to make an extra good profit.

By courtesy of Mr. Brass.

ST. LOUIS, MO., July 28, 1850.

Dear Julia:

I cannot understand why we have been without a single word from you since your kind letter of February 8. My last letters are dated January 14, April 28, with enclosure for Burcher, and on June 14 I sent you a letter through a Mr. Brass, a saddler of Born, who wanted to bring the letter to you himself and tell you about conditions and life in St. Louis. This is my fourth letter without hearing from you.

If you went to Altenberg or Osnabrück, I trust that you saw to it that your mail was forwarded to you, and I am sure you have enough time and leisure to write. Your long silence is a mystery to us; I hope you have not delayed writing until Julius should get ready to leave, as I have mentioned to you several times that mailing is and remains the best, safest, fastest, and therefore most convenient way to send a letter. I do not intend to reproach you, as weighty reasons may be the cause of your long silence, but one thing is sure—we are very, very eager to hear from you.

We have had no direct news from Valdorf, but we have heard indirectly that something is wrong; please investigate and tell us what you can find out. I had a severe cold for about six weeks and my entire face was swollen, and it is not all right yet. The doctor thinks it will disappear after the hot weather is over; steam-baths and perspiring did not help. This is the hottest and driest summer we have ever experienced, and we have had many days with one hundred and five degrees Fahrenheit in the shade. In spite of this, all of us are feeling well, with the exception of my swollen face, but this is not painful. The cholera is here again, but it is nothing compared to last year; however, many small children are dying on account of the enormous heat. Today's paper stated: "There were forty-three funerals yesterday, twenty-five children under five years of age died on account of the heat, and fifteen on account of cholera." How are conditions in Germany in regard to the cholera?

I mentioned in my last letter that our Fritz went to the farm of Ferdinand Keyser and that he wanted to do farming for one year. We heard that he was getting along nicely, that he likes this kind of life, that Kayser was well pleased with him, and that Fritz may make up his mind to become a farmer. This is pleasing news to us, as we believe it is the right thing for him, as farmers lead a life free from care in this country, though they have not much chance to get rich.

August 16, 1850.

The mail, which came over by the mail steamer, was delivered in St. Louis the day before yesterday, but we had no letters from Lennep or Valdorf. Therefore I ask you urgently to write as soon as possible—if possible one day after you receive this letter—and please write me what you know about the conditions in Valdorf, and tell me your frank opinion about the matter. A certain Mr. Henry Weyhe, of Bünde, who lived in Louisville, spent some time in Bünde, and he returned to Louisville a short time ago. He told our Cousin Julius Winter the following news:

- 1) The right Reverend Pastor S., Counsellor of the Consistory, etc., lived in a family way with his maidservant.
- 2) The government deprived him of his office on account of this,
- 3) and drove him from house, home, and parsonage, together with his respectable, aged father and his innocent children.
- 4) All of this was published in the official *Government Journal* in Preussisch-Minden.
- 5) That S. and children are on the point of seeking refuge in America.

- 6) That all the newspapers assailed him so fearfully on account of this unpardonable sin that he cannot remain in Germany any longer.

You will see from this how eager we are to hear from you whether these accusations are false or true, and if the consequences are really so severe, how the old father is getting along; if all of them intend to come here; if the Winters intend to come with them; and whether a part of it is true, or the whole story nothing but malicious slander. Write everything in our code though nobody will read your letter. Address your letter exactly as given below, and do not delay your answer, as this terrible uncertainty is worse than the naked truth. I feel deeply sorry for the aged father.

Farewell, dear sister, and fulfill our wish by answering soon. Many heartfelt greetings from all of us.

Your loving brother,
GUSTAVUS.

Mr. G. Wulfing
St. Louis, Mo.
North America
per Liverpool and
First Royal Mail Steamer.

The cholera has disappeared entirely; there are not more than two deaths per day on account of this sickness, and frequently days with no deaths at all.

By first Royal Mail Steamer via Liverpool.
Cancellation stamps read:
St. Louis, Mo., August 19 (1850).
Lennep, September 13 (1850).
Letter was answered September 17, 1850.

ST. LOUIS, MO., September 20, 1850.

Dear Julia:

On September 2 we received your letter of August 2, and your letter pleased us very much. Many thanks for same; I shall not delay my answer, though I have no reply to my letters of June 14, by Mr. Brass, of Born, and of August 16, by mail. In my letter of June 14 I told you about Overhoff's child, and in my last letter of August 16 I asked you to give us some information in regard to the reports we had heard about the "Secrets of Valdorf."

Fritz inquired about this on July 17, and he asked for an immediate answer by mail steamer; however, he has not got a reply so far. We expect to get direct information, either from Valdorf or Bünde, but we should like to hear from you also, as you can well imagine that this is of the greatest interest to us. I wrote you my ideas with reference to your intended will and testament, but you passed this up in silence; I should like to hear about this from you too. It was interesting to hear that Burcher had bought the *Keesbach*, but I do not know whether this is good or bad news. Let's hope for the best.

If you can sell the house and side building at a fairly good price, I feel that this would remove all your financial troubles and worries. Repairs are high, collections of rent slow, and there are many other hardships you have to contend with; and a sale is the only way to free you of this. If you cannot find one buyer for everything, it might be well to auction it off piece by piece. Who is handling this for you, and who is your chief adviser? I hope Cousin Arnold Hardt is assisting you.

Do you intend to stay in Lennep, or where do you wish to go? Do you think you can dispose of the land within the near future? These are questions I should like to hear from you about. Supposing that you get an opportunity to sell everything for cash, do you believe there will be enough capital left after all obligations are paid that four or five per cent interest will allow you to lead a life free from worries? The legal rate of interest in this country is six per cent, but the customary rate is ten per cent. I offer to pay you ten per cent interest on the remaining capital, that is on the amount left, after all your obligations are paid, and as security I will give you a mortgage on my property on Market and Seventeenth Streets, 50 feet front and 140 feet deep, including buildings, all of which is worth at least six thousand dollars. The property is located in the city of St. Louis.

My suggestion may puzzle you more or less for the moment, therefore it might be best for you to see Mr. Henry Hardt, who is well acquainted with conditions, and who can give you good advice. The most economical way of transmitting the interest to you is to send the money to Mr. Henry Hardt in New York, and he can pay you the equivalent out of the income of his house in Lennep. You can readily see that an income of ten per cent will enable you to lead a more pleasant life than an income of four or five per cent, and in this way I should be contributing my share to give you a pleasant future. In making these changes you must bear in mind that it is

better to have a smaller fortune with an income that allows you to be free and independent, than to have a larger fortune which keeps you tied down. The less you demand of life, the easier it is to cover your needs.

The news from Altenberg sounds pretty bad, and I should not be surprised to hear that some one from there is coming to America. Did Peter Oellermann go to New York? Greetings to friend Eduard and tell him that I should be pleased to get a letter from him. Willibald Moll may not be able to keep up his business; I am afraid they started on too large a scale; however, it may be possible for them to pull through. This, of course, would please me very much; it all depends on business conditions this fall. Adolph Nohl is through with business; he spent all his money and also his wife's private fortune. His brother in Germany may lose a substantial amount. Nohl might have done well if he had started in the right way. His fancy and impracticable ideas and his enormous fickleness ruined him, and this may prevent him from getting on his feet again.

The two Holthausen are not getting along so well either; they are trying all right, but it is not easy to make something out of nothing, not even in this country; a little luck is necessary, and they have not had much luck so far. The silversmith could find no work, so he went to the country to get any kind of work; he has not written, and even his brother does not know what he is doing now. The latter became a peddler and he is earning a bare living, but not more. I heard from him that his father, sixty years of age, wishes to come to this country. Please warn him urgently not to do this, and tell him that I wrote you that he should remain in Germany, unless he wants to run the risk of making his whole family unhappy. He must never come unless his sons are in a position to support him. I know that old man Holthaus is an upright gentleman, therefore I ask you to find a way to warn him in time.

Herman Moll is doing well in St. Charles and his wife is improving slowly. His father-in-law Clage is working in a store in St. Charles and he and his wife are in good health. Their son Gustav is in service here in St. Louis; he is a fine young man and he supports his parents as well as he can. Herman Schroeder is married, but we do not associate with him, and I can tell you nothing about him. Gottlieb Schroeder has not called as yet, I shall give him your letter when he comes, but I am afraid that he can do nothing for his sister. He lost his wife, née Hammers, a short time ago, and his circumstances are not too good. I know nothing new about Albert Spicker.

Krieger's sister-in-law called on us the other day. Krieger intended to marry her, but when he asked her, she told him that she could not make up her mind to marry again. She was homesick at that time. Some time later Krieger married a Swabian, and we hear that they are not getting along so well; and now his sister-in-law regrets that she did not shout "Yes" when he asked her. We have this information from the sister-in-law, so we have only one side, and we do not know what Krieger has to say about this. We see him seldom and we do not know him very well.

Julius Wusthoff may have left by this time; we heard that he was very sick in Bremen and that he had to walk on crutches, but I can hardly believe this. Uncle Fritz's children have the whooping cough; it weakened his oldest son (Fritz) most, and not so much the others. Our Fritz returned sick from the farm and he had lost considerable weight; the doctor thinks he will regain his strength through an extended rest and he merely prescribes a tonic. Carl is getting along well in every respect, also Uncle Fritz and every one of us. We are enjoying good health and we are glad that we are living.

When I read my last letter to Mother, she was troubled with a cold, and she was not at all pleased that I wrote: "We are enjoying good health." In the future when I write: "We are healthy," please take it for granted that some one in the family may have to blow her or his nose more often than usual. Furthermore, our dear Mother suffers more from "perspiring," not to mention mosquitoes and the like.

Your last letter, of August 2, arrived on September 2; therefore, please mark on all future letters:

Per first British Royal Mail Steamer
via Liverpool.

Mother says: "In the first place, we are not all right, as Fritz is sick," but I do not consider him sick, since he is up and walking around, is gaining strength every day; "and in the second place, my cheek is still swollen"; this is true, but I did not think of it. Furthermore, mother tells me to write: "Julius Winter is getting along very well. His sister is one of the prettiest girls in Bünde; she is engaged to be married to a teacher. Carl took a day off and he had a glorious time with August."

When does B. intend to emigrate? With reference to our trip I can say nothing else, except wait till 1855. Do the Vollmers possess anything, and is there a chance for Julius and Friedrich to inherit anything? Do not ask Burcher to write another letter, as his corre-

spondence is not at all interesting. Greetings to our friends and relatives in Altenberg, Düsseldorf, Osnabrück, Barmen, Elberfeld, and most of all, to our dear cousins. Most heartfelt greetings to you from all of us. There is no space left for the others to add a few lines; they may do this the next time.

Please write a long letter soon and keep us in kind memory.

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

This year's census shows a population of ninety thousand for the City of St. Louis.

By first Royal Mail Steamer via Liverpool.

Cancellation stamp reads: St. Louis, Mo., September 23 (1850).

Two stamps are not legible.

Letter arrived in Lennep in November, 1850.

ST. LOUIS, MO., January 28, 1851.

Dearly beloved Julia:

On September 20 I wrote you my last letter, and this was my answer to your kind letter of August 2. Since then I have received yours of September 16 in cypher-code. I would have answered long ago, but you mentioned several times: "As soon as I hear more about the Valdorf matter, I shall hasten to write you more completely." I delayed my answer on account of this, as I was waiting for your promised report, but I waited in vain. Four long months have passed without a single line from you. Mr. Brass had greetings from you, and through Julius Wusthoff we received *County News*, two collars, two cuffs, and a cap; we wish to express our thanks for these presents. We expect a letter from you soon, and I shall say nothing more about your inexplicable silence.

Valdorf has not honored us with a letter in spite of the fact that I wrote a friendly and consoling letter to August on October 20 in which I avoided even the slightest reproach, and I advised him to come to this country. August has written Fritz twice. As far as we can judge from here, we (Fritz and ourselves) think it would be best if the Valdorf people remain in Germany, but August and his children should come to this country. We consider it our duty to disregard our own interest, at least for the present, and we suggested that August and his whole family, father, as well as Carl and his daughter Anna, should come over here. We stated our reasons, we gave instructions, and we advised each and every one of them to the

best of our knowledge as to what they might expect in this country. We wrote as considerately as possible and we destroyed several letters when we thought they might be interpreted as a reproach. We promised to help them to the best of our ability and with kindness and due consideration, provided, however, that they are willing to do their share. We mentioned to August that he could not undo his actions, but he could lessen the consequences for his children by emigrating; and we are of the opinion that he owes this expiatory sacrifice (*Sühneopfer*) to his children.

We have read a part of his penitential homily (*Beichtpredigt*) of Osnabrück of May 5, in which he stated:

The devil comes in various forms to entice sinful men to do evil, and, dear brothers and sisters *in Christo*, I can tell you an experience of my own life, and give you an illustration of the power of Satan. About nine months ago I was in my study, and my thoughts were with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, when the devil approached and endeavored to persuade me to commit an unpardonable sin, but I implored our Lord and Savior to aid me; I struggled with the devil, and with the aid of our Lord I overcame the temptation. Hardly one-quarter of an hour later the devil came back, we struggled tremendously, but in the end he seized me by the collar, guided me into the room of my servant, and—we committed sin. Amen.

Then he gave his written sermon to the teacher to read aloud, and sat down on the so-called offenders' bench (*Armesünderbank*), which he had put up for girls who lost their chastity to occupy during their somewhat delayed wedding ceremony.

Three or four months before, or perhaps about the same time, he wrote Fritz: "I gave up the idea of marrying again, as the children are almost grown, and besides, it is an elevating thought to remain faithful to my beloved Gretchen even after her departure." As I knew of several marriage plans which had failed, such a statement appeared hypocritical; but to write this after the devil had seized him by the collar, that is

In his last letter August wrote Fritz that the consistory advised him to submit his resignation; they reported his resignation to Berlin, and August hopes now it will be refused and he will be reinstated. However, if it is accepted, he may make up his mind to emigrate. Marie and Lina and also Father could leave first, as the girls are studying English. He hopes to get free transportation for himself and children through the missionary society, and he may be able to find employment through them, as many parishes turn to the society to obtain a pastor. He named two pastors whom the devil had made sport of in the same way as his own case, and who are now

well established through the worthy missionary society. I do not know how much of this is true, but I do know that much is happening in this world which we should consider impossible. The world is full of wild pranks, and pastors are playing the first violin in this world.

I saw Brass only for a moment. He told me he called on you and found you to be well, and that you mentioned to him that you do not wish to go to America; he promised to call again in a few days. Does Holthaus still figure on going to America? A third son arrived lately and he is employed as a pastry cook. The oldest son went to an eastern state and he has a good position as goldsmith; the other son, Julius, is still here but without a job. He, Moll, and Siever entered into a risky business venture, and his loss exceeded five hundred dollars. It was their own fault insofar as they were warned, but they thought they knew better. Moll and Siever are still holding on, but it is hard to say how long.

What did Julius do in Germany? Did he call on relatives only, or did he transact business too? What did he tell you about us? Did he mention anything about the twenty dollars? When sending the *County News* on January 4, he wrote:

I wish to express my thanks that you always wrote to my relatives in Germany in a way which placed my character to the best advantage. You showed through this a tender consideration, a characteristic which I had not had the pleasure of noticing before; and I am, respectfully and obediently yours, Julius Wusthoff.

As far as I know, I wrote you *in compliance with your often repeated request*, what I had heard about him since he has been in New Orleans, and I remarked that I had cause to believe that these reports were correct, and I can only confirm this opinion.

The swelling of my face disappeared slowly and it is almost completely gone, but in damp and chilly weather it gets somewhat worse, and then it improves quickly. I have not paid much attention to it for a long time. Generally speaking we are enjoying good health, but business conditions could be better; however, we are satisfied. Our Carl made a net profit of nine hundred dollars the first year, that is, this was his share of the profit after all expenses were deducted. Our Fritz is still with us and he works in the store; he had more than intermittent fever but he is getting along nicely. We are on the best of terms with Fritz, and he and Carl understand each other well. Mother, Mathilde, Gildehaus, and Carl went to a grand reception and ball about a week ago, and Mother was addressed as "Madame" Gildehaus once, and "Miss" twice. You can see from this how well

and healthy and chiefly, how young she looks. I have always taken good care of her and I have a right to say:

Ehre dem Ehre gebührt.

Honor to whom honor is due.

How are the prospects in regard to the sale of the *Gartenfeld*, the house and the side building? I am very eager to hear more about it; I trust that you will find a buyer soon. I cannot understand at all why we should be without a letter from you for such a long time. Herman Moll sold his brewery in St. Charles and they live in St. Louis. He has started a small grocery store and I believe he is doing well. Julius Winter is doing a good business in Louisville; his sister in Bünde is said to be engaged to an assistant school teacher; she would have done better by emigrating. Mrs. Herman Moll is getting stronger every day, her health has improved and she can take care of her household. Old man Clage has a job in St. Charles and he gets \$15.00 per month.

Hearty greetings to our dear cousins. Be careful and do not tell others when I write something confidentially. Make it a rule to tell others only pleasant news, and never anything unpleasant. When I write, for instance, that Moll and Sievers may not be able to continue business long, it is understood that this is strictly for your own information, and not for others. If you cannot keep such information to yourself, it may be better to discontinue telling you such things. I heard that Mr. Giers, opposite the post office, gets our German-language paper regularly, the *Anzeiger des Westens*, and you may ask him to let you read a few copies if you care to read them. Christian Moll, of Lüttringhausen, gets the paper through his brother Willibald also.

Christiane wishes to add a few lines, and I shall finish now, as I know of nothing else to write about.

Once again hearty greetings from all of us, and please write soon.

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Dear Julia:

You will be surprised to get a few lines from me. If I were half as fast with the pen as Gustavus, I most assuredly would write much and often, as I know that this pleases you.

Gustavus wrote how we are feeling, but he did not mention that Mathilde and I frequently spend the whole evening talking about you and our dear cousins, and that I tell Mathilde how your home is arranged, and how harmoniously you live together. Yes, dear

Julia, to recall past times is a wonderful diversion. How many pleasant things do I have to remember of the time when I was newly married, and when we lived in Lennep. How kind you were to me, each and every one of you; how much love and consideration you showed me, and how all of you took care of me during my sickness.

At that time our dear mother was living, and also dear Aunt Peter Wulfing, Carl, Christiane, Peter, our dear aunt in Dohr, and our dear Lottchen. Oh, all these loved ones have passed away. Even now, you never miss an opportunity to give us a great surprise. The collars and cuffs fit well; you always pick the right things; many thanks.

Gustavus wishes to seal the letter, so farewell, dear Julia, and remember

Your loving sister,
CHRISTIANE WULFING.

Many heartfelt greetings to our dear cousins from all of us.

By first Royal Mail Steamer
via Liverpool.
Cancellation stamp reads:
St. Louis, Mo., February 1 (1851).
Other stamps are illegible.

ST. LOUIS, MO., February 28, 1851.

Dearly beloved Sister:

With my last letter of the 29th of last month I answered your kind letter of September 16 of last year. As I failed to get further reports from you, I cannot but think that your letter is lost. I was hoping to get a letter by the steamship "Atlantic," which put into port in Ireland as is well known, and this delayed the mail considerably. Now, the mail of the "Atlantic" is delivered, but there was no letter for us. You can readily see that we are eager to hear from you.

We had a letter from August yesterday, and I believe he is willing to come to us with his five children. We invited him most urgently to do this and we advised him to bring all his children; we did not do this in our former letters, as we thought it would be better if only his two oldest daughters should come. Judging from his letters it appears that his funds are somewhat low, and it occurred to me that this may be a good time for August's relatives to do something for him. I doubt that August would ask them directly for help, and he may disapprove if I write confidentially; for this

reason I mentioned nothing about this matter in my letter to him, but I suggest to you to ask pastor Wiessmann's advice, and it may be possible that the Schrodgers, Bohmers—all wealthy people—and perhaps Wiessmann himself, are willing to pay his traveling expenses. A few hundred *Taler* do not make much difference to them, but it would be a great help to August.

When August comes to Bremen and inquires about passage to New Orleans, and then hears that the passage is paid, I believe, my dear Julia, that this would please the angels in heaven; therefore, I ask you most urgently to see pastor Wiessmann about this matter, and if you succeed, you will have accomplished a wonderful deed. I am afraid that August will have to travel in steerage unless he gets help, and this would be awful for a man of his age, who is not accustomed to hardships. If he finds his cabin passage paid, it will be not only a great relief to him, but it would be a deed well worthy of being written on marble. My dear sister, I ask you to give this suggestion your due consideration, and please tell me as soon as convenient if you were successful.

Thanks be to God, we are feeling well and we are longing for a letter from you. With a thousand hearty greetings from all of us, I am

Your loving brother,
GUSTAVUS.

Julius Wusthoff wrote the other day that he has a half-dozen stockings, which he will send at his first opportunity. Heartfelt thanks.

G.

By first steamer via Liverpool.
Cancellation stamps read:
St. Louis, Mo., March 3 (1851).
Z X
6 Ap. 6
1851.

ST. LOUIS, MO., August 19, 1851.

Dearly beloved sister Julia:

I have your kind letters of March 13, May 11, and June 19 before me. Before answering these I shall give you a pleasant piece of news, or rather two good reports:

Firstly: Our dear Mathilde is expecting to become a mother about Christmas, she is feeling well, as are all of us. May God give his blessing, and let us hope that it will be a healthy baby.

Secondly: We have decided to dispose of our business this fall, or at least by the New Year, or rather, we intend to turn the business over to our son-in-law. We expect everything to be settled by the end of February, and if we remain in good health, and if nothing unforeseen happens which may frustrate our plans, we—that is, Mother and I—are fairly well decided to take a trip to Germany.

Without doubt you will read this over, and, after reading it again, you will be happy, and pray to God that He may grant this pleasure, and that He may give us a pleasant trip. I cannot describe how the mere thought of seeing our dear relatives and friends elates us after an absence of sixteen years, and I am almost certain that our wish will be realized this time. We may return in the fall.

Brother August and family arrived here safely on Sunday, June 1. They are feeling all right and they made their home with us for about five weeks, as Fritz's wife is sickly. Uncle Fritz gave Rudolph a job in his store. After that time they rented four rooms in our neighborhood; but they moved to Quincy, in the State of Illinois, about two weeks ago, about 150 English miles from here. This is the same place where Uncle Carl formerly lived. August accepted a position as pastor in Quincy; his chances were slim in St. Louis, as our pious ministers opposed him strongly. He was almost ready to become a merchant. We had his first letter yesterday, and he writes that they like it better every day; they are grateful that our good Lord helped them so wonderfully. Rudolph remained in St. Louis, and Marie is employed in the family of an English minister.

August is extremely happy that he has a congregation, and he deserves to be happy; I consider him upright in spite of everything. He is sincere in his belief, he is more than honest, and he likes his vocation. He loves his children and all good people, even though they may belong to a different denomination and may not share his ideas. He is a gentleman, and I am glad that we treated him and his children with kindness and due consideration. We liked the children well, but we noticed that they lacked the good influence of a mother. We liked Lina best. We wish August the best of luck; contrary to all expectations he made a wonderful impression on all of us, and we are willing to forget all the old matters. August received a letter from Father in which he expressed his joy about their safe arrival; he stated that he and Carl are living with the Winters in Bünde and that they may stay there. Anna may remain with her grandparents in Eilsen. Gretchen's relatives did not wish to keep any of the children; they fancy that this puts too great an obligation on

them, and they gave lack of time and ability as their reason. They claim he could well afford to pay for cabin passage for himself, or travel steerage, as he received 1000 *Taler* from Mother Schroder. They do not consider that he paid half of this amount plus interest in cash to Herman Schroder's children, and that this dreadful matter cost him about 500 *Taler*. However, since August left, they seem to have changed their minds, and they have decided to send him 500 *Taler*; but they do not state whether it is a loan or a present, or when and how they intend to send it. They must be pious and kindhearted people, indeed, and willing to make a sacrifice; I do not envy them, but I feel sorry for them. I will give you his address, as it is possible that one of them might get a notion of writing to August:

By steamer via Liverpool.

Rev. A. Schmieding
Quincy, Ill.
North America.

This means in German:

Mit Dampfschiff über Liverpool.

"Rev." means "Seiner Ehrwürden" and it is pronounced Reverend; "Ill." means Illinois, and this is the name of the state in which Quincy is located.

August assured us that the story about the penitential homily and the so-called offender's bench is nothing but slander and that not a single word was true. The girl is with her parents in Valdorf. When August arrived here he had about twelve hundred dollars in cash, besides his things. He had to furnish his home, and he now has one thousand dollars left, which he has invested at 6 per cent interest. Do not mention this to his relatives, as they might regret that they promised him five hundred *Taler*, and they might prefer to keep the money.

You may have returned from Osnabrück by the time this letter reaches you, and we trust that you paid several visits to the Dieckriede family. The cholera is a matter of the past. Aunt Louise Schmieding is very sickly, and her condition is such that we had to take her two smallest children, three and one years of age, into our home. The baby is being weaned, is teething, and is extremely delicate. Fritz's wife was never strong and healthy, and now she is so weak that it is well to be prepared for the worst. Her four children—two boys of six and five years of age, and two girls of three and one years—are in good health. We are healthy and well satisfied, and we two "old ones" are looking forward with pleasure to

our trip, or rather, the expectation of seeing our dear Aunt Julia and our cousins once more fills us with joy.

I had three letters from Cousin Springmann, and I answered them promptly. Only yesterday I wrote him a long and detailed letter, and I mentioned to him that my better half and I contemplate taking a trip to Germany next spring. I promised to call on him in Trier, and this would give us an opportunity to talk his matters over. His son left Liverpool for New Orleans on June 1, and we expect him to arrive here almost any day. It is understood that we shall take good care of him; he will live with us until we find a suitable position for him, and we shall not let him out of our eyes. We trust that he arrives safely and in good health; and if he is ambitious and willing to make a headway in life, he will succeed.

Nohl had to give up his business long ago, and they pledged the private fortune of his excellent wife to cover part of his obligations. He is employed with an insurance company and he gets a salary of one thousand dollars; but he is the same careless fellow he always was. We bought a confectioner's shop with Emil Holthaus, which we turned over to Emil, as we intend to give up all our business enterprises. This is a good business, Emil Holthaus is capable, and we are confident that he will make good. Moll is still holding on. Old lady Clage passed away a few days ago. Old man Clage lives with his daughter now and the latter is well again. We heard that old lady Moll, of Lüttringhausen, intends to come to this country with a widowed daughter, of Elberfeld, and several children. This may turn out better than it appears on the surface, provided however that they are in good health, that the children are old enough to earn something, and that Willibald can aid them, at least in the beginning; if that is not the case, it will be just too bad. We have heard nothing from Albert Spicker and nothing from Arnold Stoter, and I doubt that the latter came to St. Louis. Mr. Brass married a daughter of Mr. Knecht and he works at P. Peters.

We know nothing about Julius Wusthoff, except that he did his utmost to be of aid to August and his family. I am going to bring the twenty-dollar note in question along. In case Mr. von Berg should call on you, please give him my best regards and tell him that I shall have the pleasure of paying him my respects next spring. You must exercise a little patience, as you will have to wait until spring if you want to know more about the ball. With reference to your testament, I think it is well to wait, as it is better to talk this

over. Gottlieb Schroeder is involved in a disagreeable lawsuit, and he is hardly in a position to send anything to his sister, at least for a while. I do not know whether Krieger's sister-in-law is still living, if she is living here, or if she married.

We are healthy and cheerful. Our Mathilde is particularly happy, and she knows the duties of motherhood; we trust that everything will turn out well, and that she will give birth to a healthy and well developed baby. Mother—I shall say grandmother soon—is full of expectations on account of this, and also on account of our intended trip. She says she is going with me, or I cannot go either, and whether I want to, or not, I shall have to take the “old lady” along. Gildehaus is very proud of his expected fatherhood, and he indulges in speculations as what he shall teach his boy.

Our Carl went to the East this summer, that is to New York, Baltimore, Boston, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Louisville; this was his first trip as buyer, and he fulfilled all expectations. Our Fritz had a job with a gardener from the middle of March, but he had to come back to us, as he had intermittent fever from the middle of April to the middle of May. After that he went back to the gardener, and he seems to be well. He likes his work and the people are pleased with him. He hopes to be able to start his own business in two or three years. Fritz is doing well since he has been with the gardener. He is the tallest of us, he is three inches taller than I am, and one and a half inches taller than Carl; he is broad-shouldered and heavy. He spends his Sundays with us, and we are pleased with his progress, and to see that he is contented with himself and others. All of us believe in a tranquil and contented life and we find real happiness and contentment in ourselves.

August mentioned on several occasions:

How happy you live here, and how much love and consideration you show each other; Gildehaus harmonizes with you as if he were your own son, you are in good health and you have no worries. You parents enjoy your children, and your children enjoy their parents; you treat each other with consideration, and your business and your mutual household go like clockwork; in short, I do not know where to find anything like it. You are always active, and for this reason you are cheerful; you are in a position to satisfy your wishes, as you have only moderate wishes.

And this is true, my dear Julia; we shall tell you all about everything, and you will enjoy it. Our greatest worry was our Fritz, but he has been doing well in the past six months, and our worries regarding his future seem to be obviated.

I am sorry to say that Uncle Fritz cannot say the same. His wife

is sickly and, besides, she was never an excellent housekeeper and never an affectionate wife, but she was always a fond and loving mother to her children. She is extremely indifferent and peculiar, and quite often capricious. She and the whole Kayser family ignored August and his family completely, and this contrasted noticeably with our attitude. August was here two weeks before she saw the children.

Now, my dear Julia, I have mentioned about everything I can think of, and I must withhold something, or we shall have nothing to tell you later on. I shall write you as soon as we have made definite plans in regard to our trip. Mathilde does not like to be without her mother, but I cannot see why we should not be able to take this trip, provided everything turns out well, and that Mathilde and her baby are in good health. We shall dispose of our business by that time; our children are grown and well taken care of, we are still vigorous and healthy, and young enough to enjoy such a trip, and why should we not go?

Farewell, my darling sister; hearty greetings to you and our dear cousins, and to everyone who remembers us. If you are in Osnabrück, I presume you have taken care that letters will be forwarded.

Greetings to our relatives and friends in Osnabrück; and please write us soon and keep us in kind memory.

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., August 21 (1851).

I F

14 SP. 14

1851

St. LOUIS, Mo., September 7, 1851.

Dearly beloved Sister:

Since writing my last letter of August 19, which I trust has arrived, I received your kind letter of July 28 yesterday. In regard to Springmann's I refer you to my letter mentioned above. I answered his letters promptly both with reference to his son and also in regard to his intention to emigrate to this country. I wrote promptly and in detail and I promised him to take care of his son and to call on him in Trier, if we take our intended trip to Germany. According to his last letter, his son left Liverpool on June 21 for New Orleans and he should have arrived in St.

Louis about two weeks ago. However, we have heard nothing from him so far. And we are afraid that he may have gone to Texas or some place else. We hope for the best, and I shall write his father as soon as I have heard from him.

No doubt you were pleased when you read that Christiane and I intend to visit you; our plan still holds good, though we have had several changes since writing my last letter. Aunt Louise, Uncle Fritz' wife, passed away, and she left a boy of seven years of age and one of six years, and a girl of three years, and one of one year behind. Fritz bears his own and his children's loss bravely; he sold his house and rented a home. He keeps house with the aid of a maid and he kept the two boys, who are going to school. We are taking care of the two girls, Bertha and Emma. Bertha is with Mathilde, and mother takes care of Emma. We still keep house together, as before. You will see from the enclosed newspaper clipping that we intend to dispose of our house and all other property. In two weeks from tomorrow we shall try to sell everything at auction, and we trust that we may get an acceptable offer.

Translation of a newspaper clipping from the
Anzeiger des Westens.

EXTENDED AUCTION SALE OF VALUABLE PROPERTY.

On Monday the 22nd of this month, at 10 o'clock A. M., then and there, the following property, belonging to G. Wulfig, will be sold at public vendue to the highest bidder. It consists of a two-story brick building and a lot on Market Street, between 17th and 18th Streets, 25 feet front on Market Street, and 140 feet deep to an alley 32 feet wide. The house contains a store room, at present occupied by the grocery store of Wulfig and Gildehaus, and 6 rooms; two excellent dry basements; the building is 25 by 37 feet; kitchen 15 by 30 feet; the walls of the basement are 18 inches thick, the walls of the building 13 and 9 inches; a well with excellent water is in the yard.

Further: A valuable building-lot on the corner of 17th St. and Market St., 25 feet front and 73 feet deep, with a frame house and frame stable.

A valuable building-lot on the corner of 17th St. and an alley, 32 feet wide, with 25 feet front on the corner of said alley and 17th St., and 67 feet deep.

Further: Six fine building-lots on 17th Street, between Walnut Street and an alley, 32 feet wide, to the north; the lots have a front of 23 feet 4 inches, and are 131 to 134 feet deep to an alley 18 feet wide.

Conditions: One-third cash, balance payable in one and two years, with deed of trust and interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum. Guaranteed bill of sale will be given. Ten dollars down for each lot, and fifty dollars down for the building and lot, if sale is accepted.

WM. J. AUSTIN, AUCTIONEER.

Gildehaus may start a hardware business. If everything goes well with Mathilde, and if she has a healthy baby, there is nothing in our way to delay the trip. The oldest girl, Bertha, will remain with

Mathilde, and we are going to take little Emma to Cincinnati and leave her with Aunt Pauck until we come back. Both are lovely children; Bertha is tall and strong for her age of three and a quarter years, but Emma, with her thirteen months, is extremely weak and delicate; she suffers with teething and on account of the extreme heat, but she has a good appetite and she is gaining visibly.

Though we have a good maid, the children are additional responsibilities, but on the other hand, they are the source of great pleasure; they are better taken care of than with their own mother. She was a devoted and self-sacrificing mother, but owing to her continual sickness she was unable to take care of her children as well as Mother and Mathilde can, and as they are actually doing. As Uncle Fritz may never marry again, he may have to send the boys to a boarding school later on.

We had a letter from August and Marie yesterday; they like it extremely well in Quincy, and they are happy and contented. August wrote: "All of us like it well, and the climate seems to agree with us. The congregation shows us kindness and consideration, just as they did in Valdorf; we are really cheerful, and I was never happier, at least not since 1844." His letter shows contentedness, and we are really glad about this, as he is deserving, and we think a great deal of him in spite of everything. Marie writes in a happy manner too, and we may call on them before leaving for Germany.

I shall make inquiries in regard to Schroder; I believe he will not be able to furnish the amount necessary to cover the traveling expenses of his sister and relatives. His circumstances are somewhat reduced since his excellent wife passed away. I am not displeased that you did not go to Osnabrück this summer, as we three may go together next year. I mentioned in my last letter that our Fritz is again with the gardener; he is feeling well, and I am confident that he will remain so. We may take him along as far as Cincinnati, and we may locate a suitable gardener for him near there. Of course we are feeling well or you would have heard from me. We are enjoying the best of health and we trust that the sale of our real estate will turn out well.

On the condition that you keep this strictly confidential I shall tell you that we expect to have at least six thousand dollars after everything is turned into cash, and after all obligations, including von Berg, are paid. We hope to get eight thousand dollars, which will bring us six hundred or eight hundred dollars interest per annum at the rate of ten per cent, and this will be enough to live on free from care.

Now a few lines with reference to your affairs. Your plans and also the division into small lots are very good ideas, and I wish you great success. I advise you to turn everything—without exception—into cash, even if the offers are not quite as high as you would like to see them. Do not wait for better times; as far as we can judge Germany's future, we believe that the right time to sell is now. We doubt whether it will remain quiet in Germany, and it is best to dispose of all your obligations, as it may be extremely difficult to raise capital later on.

My dear Julia, if I were in your position, I would sell everything and establish myself on a small scale. A living room, a sleeping room, and a small kitchen; space for coal and wood, etc., and a small cellar, that is all I should care to have; about on the order as we had it when we lived at Roentgen's. At any rate try to sell everything, so that you get rid of all your troubles and worries, and I trust there will be enough funds left for you to live comfortably from the interest, and if not, I am sure it will not be difficult to raise the additional amount in some way. How much do you think you need for your support per annum—please tell me about it—for rent, food, clothing, coal, and wood, light, and attendance, also doctor bills, or small trips to Osnabrück, Barmen, Altenberg, etc.?

We figure our expenses, when mother and I shall live by ourselves, as follows: Rent \$100.00, food \$200.00, clothing \$50.00 each, other expenses \$100.00, total \$500.00, and we have \$100.00 left for the unforeseen. Our demands on life are moderate, and with the aid of our Lord we expect to have a future free from care. Please keep all this information strictly to yourself. After you have sold everything it may be well not to reinvest your money until we have talked matters over. Mother and Mathilde have called my attention to the fact that you may be wondering why we wish to sell our pretty home and garden, and the lots. We have no other reason except that we want to retire from all business activities. Our house is beautiful and large, but it is not suitable for a private residence on account of the store. We can live pleasantly and undisturbed, and perhaps more comfortably for half of the expense and at the same time free from business worries. Our children are grown and are getting along well; they will work with our capital at the rate of ten per cent, and they can make money for themselves whereas we shall have no business worries and we shall be able to enjoy life. Gildehaus cannot take the house and business over, as the location is not favorable for a hardware store. He wants to

start a hardware store, as this is a better line than the grocery business.

Farewell now, my dear sister, accept heartiest greetings. Please write soon and keep us in kind memory.

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

By steamer to Liverpool.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., September 9 (1851).

Seebrief per England und Aachen October 8 (1851).

ST. LOUIS, Mo., September 22, 1851.

Dear Julia:

The significant September 22 is here and the auction is over, but we did not sell—neither house nor lots; buyers who were sufficiently interested failed to show up, and we did not wish to sell below the actual value. We are going to sell now piece by piece, and we shall be ready to leave, as soon as everything is disposed of. The building lots are in a good location and it will not be hard to sell them; I am confident that we shall find buyers by next spring. We cannot start on our trip until everything is sold. Omission is no acquittance, but we shall have to exercise a little more patience, and we must accept conditions as they are. I trust that you had better luck with your sale, and I shall appreciate it if you would notify Cousin Fr. Springmann, of Trier, about the delay. His son August is not here as yet, and since he left Liverpool on June 21 for New Orleans, there is cause to fear that his ship met with an accident. I wrote to New Orleans some time ago and inquired if the ship had arrived, and if they could find out what became of August Springmann.

Since writing my last letter of September 7, which was my answer to your letter of July 28, we have had a sad experience. Little Emma Schmieding passed away, and we buried her yesterday; she died of teething and weakness. It is very sad for all of us, as we liked the little darling.

Schroder won his lawsuit, and he told me the other day that he sent a draft to old man Hendeler to pay for the traveling expenses of his sister and family. We are in the best of health and we trust to hear from you soon, particularly in regard to the sale.

My main reason for writing today is to tell you about the delay of our trip to Germany, and I know of nothing else just now. August wrote us several pleasing letters, but he has not heard anything

from his relatives in Germany. They do not understand this, as Lina wrote to her Aunt Bohmer a long time ago.

Hearty greetings from all of us,

Your faithful brother,

GUSTAVUS.

By steamer to Liverpool.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., September 25 (1851).

B C

20 Oc. 20

1851

Seebrief per England und Aachen October 21 (1851).

ST. LOUIS, Mo., October 19, 1851.

Dear Julia:

I answered your kind letters of March 13. May 11, and June 19 on August 19, and your kind letter of July 28 on September 7, and my last letter is dated September 22. I received your letter of September 13 a few days ago.

It appears that we both have the same luck with our sales efforts; we thought we would get \$4000.00 for the house and lot—we might have accepted \$3500.00—but \$2700.00 was the best offer made. Therefore we did not sell; we are going to continue our business, and we shall wait until we get a better price before retiring from business.

We (Christiane and I) intend to buy land near the city, build a suitable house, and live just for ourselves. It is somewhat uncertain whether we can take our intended trip to Germany under the existing conditions; the expected disturbances may prevent us, but more so the unanimous wish of our children, who do not like to see us go. Uncle Fritz wishes us to stay also, and to start building as soon as we have sold. He wants to buy land with us, and to live either with us or to build right next to our house.

Our Fritz will remain with the gardener for several years, Carl will stay with his present business, Gildehaus may start a similar business somewhere in the city, or, he may become Carl's partner, if Uncle Fritz withdraws from the business to retire as we do. Uncle Fritz and I shall go to the city frequently, and we may speculate a little occasionally. Mathilde will have a spare room for us, so that we can stay over night, in case it should become too late to go home, as we may wish to go to a theatre or a concert. At any rate we (Christiane and I) and Uncle Fritz intend to retire from business as soon as we have sold our house and lots, as we wish to lead a

quiet and simple life by living off of our interest, and we do not doubt that we can save \$100.00 per year. You see that with God's blessing our future looks bright to us.

Now, after telling you all this first, I, or rather Mother and I, invite you once more to come to live with us, and we promise you that you will not suffer want as long as we have anything ourselves. When everything is sold and when we live alone, we shall be in a position to offer you more comfort than we can in this house, where two families live in somewhat limited space, and where we can offer only a room which cannot be heated. I have written you repeatedly what you have to expect, what privations and hardships are connected with the trip, and it is not necessary to repeat all of this; but I shall say that your worries about a home, food, and clothing will be over as soon as you arrive here; furthermore, you need not be afraid that you cannot find fine German ladies to associate with.

We believe it would be pleasant for all concerned if you come to live in our home, where you and Mother can share in the household duties, and where you can participate in our happy and care-free family life. If you make up your mind to come, it may not be a bad idea if you should travel with the Springmanns. Of course you would have to sell the house, *Gartenfeld*, furniture and everything, except clothing and bedding; we shall write about this later on. Of course the more money you have, the better it is for you; but with regard to your future, it would make no difference whether you have any money left over or not, once you are here with us.

As far as I can judge, your circumstances are as follows:

There is a mortgage on your house of 3600 <i>Bergische Taler</i> or	
	Prussian <i>Taler</i> 2769 - 6 Sgr. - 11 Pfg.
your best offer amounted	" " 2719 - 6 " - 11 "
which would leave a debt of	" " 50 - -
There is no debt on the <i>Gartenfeld</i> ,	
for which you are offered	1680 <i>Taler</i> .
The expenses connected with the sale	
may amount to	30 <i>Taler</i>
plus above mentioned debt of	50 "
	<hr/>
	80 "
which leaves a balance of approximately	<hr/>
deduct for small obligations,	1600 <i>Taler</i> ;
traveling expenses, etc.	200 "
	<hr/>
and you will have about	1400 <i>Taler</i> or

about \$900.00 left, which will give you \$90.00 per year for clothing, and pocket-money. However, if there is a mortgage on the *Gartenfeld*, and if you have to use the \$900.00, or 1400 Prussian *Taler*, to pay this obligation, then I consider this one more reason for you to make up your mind to emigrate.

As I stated before, if you have enough left, so that you can live free from care without needing assistance, after everything is taken care of, then do not tear yourself away from your accustomed habits unnecessarily; if, however, this is not the case, then come to Christiane and your only brother, and we shall welcome you most heartily. To wait for better times is silly in my opinion, and to rent the house is not so good either. I doubt that there would be enough left for you to live on, as rents would not come in promptly, or the house may be vacant for a long time. Besides, there would be many repairs and expenses for rent collections and so forth. You will never be freed of your worries and you will be compelled to lead a miserable life. If you should be with us you would be rid of all this, and you could enjoy a pleasant life. Please tell me if my calculations are correct, and tell me how much income you have had since Burcher moved away; also give me some idea in regard to your living expenses.

We are enjoying good health and Mathilde is feeling well under the circumstances, but she is suffering from a toothache just now. We have heard nothing about August Springmann, and we have received no answer from New Orleans. Four months have passed since he left Liverpool, and I am afraid that my apprehension is correct. He may have listened to suggestions of fellow travelers, and may have gone to Texas, or somewhere else. It is possible that he feared we might be too strict with him or reproach him too much; it may be natural timidity which causes him to avoid us, as he knows we are acquainted with his follies. I wrote his father to that effect, and the father aided August unwillingly by giving him enough money and clothing so that he could get along without depending on our aid. We are somewhat disappointed about this, though it may have saved us from an unpleasant experience. We are waiting for an answer from New Orleans. It would have been better for the boy to come to us, as he may become the victim of bad company, and he may be cheated out of everything; besides, there is great danger of getting on the wrong road. I am going to write his father again as soon as I get information from New Orleans. It is possible that this news is better than expected, as Julius Wust-

hoff may have located him in New Orleans, and the boy may think it is not necessary to write us.

Brother August continues to write cheerful letters; he was sick a short while ago, but he is all right again, and he and his children are feeling well. Rudolph, who stayed with Fritz and Carl, is now in Quincy; he is going to an English school, and he is going to be confirmed. August's congregation is gaining considerably; they took a liking to him, and August is well pleased and satisfied. Marie and Lina are not so pleased; they feel lonely in Quincy, they have no girl friends and no fun, and they do not go out except to church, or prayer meetings, evening prayers, private devotions, etc., etc., etc. Marie is with the family of an English pastor, and Lina takes care of August's household. About four weeks ago I received \$500.00 for August through Peter Schurmann and Schroder, and I invested this money for him.

Now to answer your kind letter of the 13th of last month. The cholera was insignificant this year and it has been a matter of the past for several weeks. Why do you prepay your letters? I do not like to prepay mine, because they are taken better care of if they are not prepaid. I notice from your letter that there are debts on the *Gartenfeld*; if you have to deduct 1000 *Taler* from the 1400 *Taler*, there will be only 400 *Taler* left, and this constitutes an important reason why you should emigrate. In my last letter to Springmann I advised him strongly to come to this country, and I believe that he will do this. I mentioned also that we intend to take a trip to Germany, and that we may call on him in Trier. He will be disappointed when he hears that we did not sell and that this may cancel our trip. It was silly to send him your letter; it was premature to say the least; please use only the mails hereafter and do not use opportunities. Our friend Willibald Moll calls on us seldom; he has formed so many new acquaintances that he has forgotten his old friends. Old lady Clage has passed away, and old man Clage has been sick for a long time. He is well again and lives with his son-in-law Herman Moll, who is getting along all right.

We loaned Emil Holthaus \$400.00 to start a confectioner's shop, but this turned out to be a poor speculation. Our business is fairly good, and Carl is doing extra well. There is not much to be said about Adolph Nohl; he did nothing for a long time, but he now has a position which pays him a salary of \$1000.00; if he would live a little more economically he might accomplish something, but he is not doing it. His wife supports herself and her children by her first marriage with the boarding house; there are no children by the

second marriage. I have already mentioned that Schroeder sent a draft to his sister. Our Cousin Herman Schroder is enjoying life splendidly as long as it lasts; I have not much confidence in him. Lina Schmieding told us that his oldest daughter died in Germany; he has no children by his second wife. Our home is still unchanged and we live the same way as before, but we expect to live by ourselves when the house is sold. As I said before, we expect an increase in the family by Christmas. What are the Osnabrückers doing, and how are our cousins in Barmen? Hearty greetings to all of them.

This is my answer to your kind letter; I shall write about our dissolute cousin, whose name you did not mention, on a separate sheet, and if you think it proper, you may give this information to the people in question.

Farewell, dear Julia, and write soon again; be cheerful and remember that all your worldly worries can easily be changed by your resolution to come to us. I do not doubt that you have enough will power to do this, and now, good bye.

I am going to mail this letter tomorrow, October 23, and I trust you may get it quickly.

Heartiest greetings from all of us, and particularly from

Your faithful brother,

GUSTAVUS.

By steamer via Liverpool.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., October 23 (1851).

B I

19 No. 19

1851

Seebrief per England und Aachen. November 20 (1851).

As a postscript to this letter I shall give you some information with reference to the unnamed cousin. Since we have no cloth manufacturers here, and since there is no demand for clerks, the only thing for him to do is to start something else, for instance, shopman, with a small salary and room and board until he learned English. Then he will earn from \$6.00 to \$10.00 per month with room and board; this salary will increase gradually up to \$50.00 per month, but this depends on the ability of the young man to make himself useful. Later on it will not be so difficult to start a business of his own. As a general rule it is not so hard to find a job, and I have assisted many young men in finding employment. Personal appearance and leading a respectable life are most essential.

If your young man is respectable, willing, and industrious, so that I can recommend him with a clear conscience, and if he enjoys good health, he will get along all right. If I cannot recommend him, and if he prefers to spend his time in saloons, pool rooms, etc., then he must be satisfied with any kind of work, such as sawing wood, cleaning streets, breaking rocks, hod carrier, etc. He will earn enough to make a good living, but by being constantly in contact with uneducated people, he will deteriorate quickly. A certain (crossed out), the son of a merchant, worked across the street from us, and he died of cholera last year. I believe that there is no other country in the world where you can observe the correctness of the saying: "As you sow, so shall you reap," so well.

I know many young people who have attained nice positions within a short time by their own efforts, which pay them from \$300.00 to \$1000.00, or who have started a business of their own; but I also know many who had an excellent education but work as common laborers, or on farms. Frequently tipplers die miserably on account of a sunstroke or delirium tremens. If a young man has a strong character, he will succeed, if not, the free and unrestrained living conditions may get the better of him. As there is nobody here who takes sufficient interest in him, as he has no one to admonish him, and as he feels free to act as he pleases, it is easy—very easy indeed—for him to ruin himself. Anger about his new living conditions, and possibly disappointment, may lead him to take to drinking and joining bad company, and the inevitable result will be that he is hopelessly lost. We hear of cases every day, or at least once in a week, where such young men are found dead in the streets, or in lonely places.

If your unknown cousin is a respectable young man, then I advise you to send him to this country, and I shall take great pleasure in aiding him; if he is not respectable, and particularly, if he likes to drink, then I want nothing to do with him. If he insists on coming, then I advise to give him his money after he is on the ship, or still better, to give him a draft on New York, which can be obtained easily at J. W. & Sohn, or P. S. & Schroeder. In our fortunate country there is room for thousands and thousands of young men who like to make headway and are willing to work, and all can find suitable positions if they are mentally and bodily able to work. If they are not willing or able to work, they are worse off in this country than anywhere else. One of the first rules they have to learn is: *Hilf dir selbst* or "Help yourself." I prefer to cross out the name of the merchant's son; the name has not much to do with the case.

So-and-so has been carrying newspapers for many years, and D. is a hod carrier. A former professor of Bonn University works in a box factory, and many of the so-called Latinists make a living by hard labor. Most of them are reduced by drink, and many through laziness, others by deficiency, and some by undeserved ill luck such as sickness or the loss of their fortune, etc.

The unknown cousin should give all of this his most careful consideration.

ST. LOUIS, MO., January 21, 1852.

Dear Julia:

On September 7 I answered your kind letter of July 28; on September 22 I wrote you that our auction sale was a failure in so far as there was no offer made which was acceptable to us. On October 19-22 I answered your kind letter of September 13. Up to today I am without an answer to any of my three letters, and I am waiting eagerly to hear from you. One reason for not hearing from you is doubtless our severe winter and the delay in navigation, as all the rivers are frozen.

On January 8 our dear Mathilde gave birth to a healthy and pretty baby girl. It was a difficult birth, but everything went well. Mother and baby are well, and our little granddaughter will be two weeks old tomorrow. Mathilde is up about one hour per day and she is well able to nurse her baby, which is strong and healthy. When she was one day old she weighed eleven pounds and four ounces; her dress weighed two pounds and three ounces, which leaves a net weight of nine pounds and one ounce. We had a midwife, who was a teacher in the Midwife Institute of Paderborn, and she was very skilful. With God's aid everything has gone well so far.

We are well pleased that we did not sell at auction, as there is no doubt in our minds that we shall get a better price if we wait for our chance. Mother was never much in favor of selling, and it may be possible that we shall not sell at all; on the contrary, we may build more. The location of our house is very favorable in regard to business, and besides, it is high, healthy, and pleasant. Since we built it ourselves, the house reflects our own taste, and it is a wonderful feeling to live on our own ground and in our own house.

I shall remain in business with Gildehaus for the time being, and we intend to continue living together as before. I take care of the buying and of the books, and Gildehaus takes care of the

selling. We have a man servant and also a maid, in other words there are six adults at our table; on Sundays eight, with Carl and Fritz. Uncle Fritz has retired from the firm of Schmieding & Wulfing, but he is leaving his name with the firm until Carl is twenty-one years old and of age. He loaned Carl eight thousand dollars at the rate of ten per cent, and he is not active in the business any more. I am confident that Carl will earn a net profit of \$1500.00 to \$2000.00 this year, in spite of the fact that he has to pay \$1100.00 for rent, and that his expenses amount from \$9.00 to \$10.00 per day.

Our Fritz is still with the gardener and he is getting along well. He spends his Sundays with us if the weather is halfway decent, and he is really proud of the fact that he is an uncle. I have been suffering from a bad cough for more than three months, but it seems to be improving again. I also suffer from an umbilical rupture, and this causes much trouble, as I cannot get a proper truss; now I am wearing a bandage according to my own ideas, and I am feeling better, at least I do not suffer from pains any more. With the exception of this ailment I am feeling fine and I am well satisfied in spite of my corpulence. Next month I am going to complete my fiftieth year, and it is not surprising that my hair is turning gray fast.

Mother is feeling well, though she suffers occasionally from colds, toothache, swollen cheeks, and from time to time from corns. From her appearance it is hard to believe that she is a grandmother. She was visiting on Christmas, and when she mentioned her daughter, a young lady regretted very much that she did not bring her along, as she would have been a wonderful playmate for her own daughter. When she heard that her daughter was grown up and had been married four years, the whole party refused to believe this, and they almost got angry, for they thought mother wanted to make fun of them by trying to tell them that such an impossibility was the truth. The young lady called on us yesterday, and when she saw the smiling faces of grandmother, mother, and daughter, and all enjoying good health, she was finally convinced. Our Mathilde and the young papa are more than happy.

We closed our books on January 1 and we are well pleased with our balance sheet in spite of the fact that we lost \$213.00 on Emil Holthaus. The young man did not know enough about his business and he was too inexperienced. When he saw that he could not succeed, he forgot his principles with reference to frankness and honesty, and he did not have sense enough to come to us and tell us frankly and honestly how matters were. He confided in a bad lawyer and forced us to proceed legally; through this we saved

\$200.00 out of the original loan of \$413.00, but the balance is lost. The whole matter is closed, and I ask you to keep this to yourself and not to talk about it. Time will tell if the two brothers, Julius and Emil, will succeed; it will be difficult, as Julius has many obligations from his former business.

Willibald Moll seems to be making good headway now; I am confident that his worst time is a matter of the past. His sister and family arrived the other day in good health. Herman Moll seems to get along all right too. We hear nothing about Stoter and Edward Spicker. Schroder may not be able to send more money to his sister. I received a letter and an unpaid draft from his sister, which I have not been able to turn over to him as yet, as he has not called on me, and this may be due to the severe cold weather. Conditions with Nohl remain the same. He is and he will remain careless. I demanded payment of Julius Wusthoff the other day; I doubt that he will pay the \$20.00 of his own free will and I may have to sue him. We heard from his father that August Springmann remained in New Orleans, he did not write us directly. I doubt that New Orleans is a good place for him; it would have been better if he had come to St. Louis; however this saves us a lot of trouble. Old man Clage is sickly.

Our Carl is two inches taller than I am, and Fritz is three inches taller than Carl. Carl is slender and Fritz is broad shouldered and strong. Fritz weighs 156, Carl 136, I weigh 226, Christy 124 pounds. What else shall I write about now? Of Uncle Fritz and August! Fritz does not know whether he should marry again or not. For his children's sake he would like to marry again, as his present home life is not so good. He has a housekeeper, but this is not what the children should have; the mother is missing to guide the boys and to teach the girls. He does not wish to marry an elderly lady, and to marry a young lady is not so good either. He is of an age where he should not start with babies any more. He lives in our neighborhood and he calls on us every day. We have only good news from Uncle August; he has a large congregation, and last New Year twenty-nine more families joined his congregation. They bought a building lot and they intend to build a new church this summer. August bought the lot next to the new church and he will build his own house for about \$1000.00 this summer. Marie is still with pastor Marks, Lina takes care of the household. Rudolph, who was with Schmieding and Wulfing first, has returned to Quincy, and Minna and Therese are going to school. Julius Winter intends to take a trip to Germany this spring, but he will visit us here first

and he will go to Quincy too. Uncle Fritz and I may go with him to Quincy. If Julius Winter contemplates taking a trip from Bünde into the Berg country, he may call on you; at any rate I intend to ask him to visit you.

They say Germany opens all letters to and from America; therefore I ask you to tell me if this letter arrived open or sealed; or better, tell me what you know about this.

Kossuth was here, and they gave him a more magnificent reception than in England. His speeches are excellent, fitting, consistent, and inspiring beyond description. Kinkel was here too with the intention of raising funds for a new revolution in Germany. His idea was to send such funds to the Revolution Committee in London, which was to dispose of the money. However, it is a well known fact that this committee does not agree among themselves, and since the German element of this city has no confidence in his cause, it is well to assume that his mission was a complete failure.

A lawsuit with the king of Prussia as plaintiff and minor children as defendants is causing great public interest here. A former Prussian subject stole funds from the Prussian Treasury, and he succeeded in escaping to America. He and his wife passed away and our probate court appointed a local lawyer as their guardian. The Prussian Consul filed suit against the estate of the fugitive Prussian subject, and the lawyer had to give a security of \$200.00 to the court to cover the cost in case the king should lose the lawsuit. Everybody is eager to see what the outcome will be, as the Royal Prussian Consul, Mr. Angelrodt, is the father-in-law of the lawyer, who is also the guardian of the minor children.

Grandma asked me to say that the little jacket, which our late Aunt Gottfried gave her for Mathilde, fits our chubby little girl better. The baby is so sweet that it is well worth your while to come over here and see it for yourself. In spite of her weight she is very delicate, she has dainty little bones, pretty dark blue eyes, a high forehead, small ears, and beautiful long narrow nails.

Hearty greetings to our dear cousins and tell them about the happy arrival of our dear granddaughter. We expect to hear from you almost any day, and we trust it will be good news in regard to the sale of the house and your future plans. Our intended trip to Germany may be postponed, at least until we sell our house and lots. If we decide to build without selling at all, then our trip will be off altogether.

If you have a pair of gold-balances in good condition, I should be pleased if you would send them to us by Julius Winter or some

other opportunity; however, this must not cause you any expense, otherwise do not send same, as we do not need them badly.

Farewell, my dear Julia. If there is no letter on the way, please write immediately after receiving this letter.

Greetings and kisses from your

loving brother,
GUSTAVUS.

By first steamer via Liverpool.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., January 25 (1852).

Amerika über Bremen.

Deutz-Minden, 24. Februar (February 24, 1852).

Dortmund-Elberfeld, 25. Februar (February 25, 1852).

ST. LOUIS, MO., March 23, 1852.

Dear Sister Julia:

At last on February 22 I received your kind letter of January 6 and I thank you, not so much for the quick response, but for the complete information you gave me. You answered mainly my letter of August 19, but you should have been in possession of my letters of September 7 and 22, and of October 22. I also wrote you on January 21, and I trust that you received all of my letters.

Mail service by steamer via Bremen seems to be regulated, therefore I suggest to you to mail your letters via Bremen hereafter, pre-paid to Bremen. It is not advisable to prepay letters altogether, as such letters are not so well taken care of. In the future I shall prepay my letters to Bremen only, that is to say, I shall pay the American postage on your letters and also on my own, and you will have to pay the German postage on all letters. A mail steamer leaves Bremen once in a month, and it leaves always on Friday. For this year they are scheduled for the following dates: February 27, March 26, April 23, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 5, and December 3. It takes two days from Lennep to Bremen, consequently you must mail your letters in Lennep three days before the dates above mentioned. If you post a letter on May 18, it will leave Bremen on May 21; if your letter arrives one day too late, it will be held in Bremen until June 18.

The sale of the house for 2930 *Taler* is pleasing news to me, though the price is low. You are rid of many worries, unpleasant experiences, and troubles. It is possible that the Catholic parish bought this through Mr. Goos. It would please me if you could sell the *Gartenfeld* too, as I should like to see you live a life free from

care. I doubt that you will earn much by knitting. I wish to see you free from worries and financially independent. I am confident that we can work out a plan to that effect if and when I come to Germany. Of course it will be necessary to sell everything except furniture and clothing. I cannot tell much about our trip as yet. We must dispose of our house and business first before we can go. No matter how much we think this over, we always come to the same conclusion. We cannot travel with ease unless we re-invest our money and draw interest at the rate of ten per cent, with our investment secured by first class mortgages. This will give us an income of about six hundred dollars per year, and the trip to Germany would not cost us more than the living expenses for Christy and me amount to in this country. The cheaper living conditions in Germany will offset the traveling expenses.

Whether we are traveling or not, we aim to sell out just the same. It is not so much my wish to retire, but ten per cent interest on my capital amounts to about the same as my share of the profits in the business, as the expenses of running a business are too great. We pay for rent alone about \$600.00 per year. This may seem incomprehensible, but figure it out for yourself. Our house, side buildings, lots, and yard, etc., are worth at least \$5000.00. When sold, I can re-invest this money with first class security at ten per cent, and the interest will amount to

\$500.00

We pay taxes amounting to about \$50.00 and for repairs
and fire insurance, etc., about \$50.00, a total of

\$100.00

consequently we pay for rent alone about \$600.00 per year. Our other property will give us a profit of at least \$1000.00, which will bring us \$100.00 more interest. When we sell we shall have a clear income of at least \$600.00 per year. Christy and I will have to pay from \$100.00 to \$150.00 for rent, and we shall need about \$400.00 for our living expenses, including clothing. This will leave us a balance of \$50.00 for unforeseen expenses, or we may save this amount.

Besides all this I shall be master of my own time, either immediately, or right after we have completed our trip to Germany. As I do not contemplate doing nothing at all, and as I like to make myself useful, I intend to look for an occupation which suits my taste, and which will enable me to earn a few hundred dollars per year. This can be easily accomplished in this country. I do not wish to start another store, as I do not wish to bind myself too much, and I call this "retiring from business." Of course, I shall earn nothing

during the time of our contemplated trip, but when I consider what we had to go through since we emigrated, and how much we have had to curtail our expenses all these years, I feel that we both are entitled to a pleasure trip and some recreation.

If we take the trip before selling out, we shall have to use our capital, or I should have to hire an assistant to take my place during my absence, and I should have to return within a set time to take over my duties. No matter how skilful an assistant may be, he will never be able to replace a business partner.

When we have sold out we shall know in advance how much our annual income will be, and this income will be safe, regardless of whether we are here or not. Furthermore, a time limit will not be necessary, as it would make no difference where we spend our money. We shall have no more business worries, no more business expenses, and our trip would be limited only if we cannot stand the change in climate, or if the longing for our children should become too great for us. You, my dear Julia, will see from this lengthy explanation, that it would be silly to take the trip before disposing of our business first. It is always a good rule to give due consideration to our actions, and for your consolation I wish to tell you that we are doing everything in our power to find a buyer. We are trying to dispose of everything, and, as I said before, we are confident that we shall realize at least \$6000.00.

Disturbances in Germany would not prevent us from traveling, but we should like to pass through France also, as we should like to see Paris. There never will be any peace until there have been greater disturbances. Kossuth was several days in St. Louis, and he maintains that it will not take very long, and there is trouble in all Europe. To listen to such a man is beyond description. Such gift of speech, such conviction about the people's rights, such ardent love for liberty I have never met before. His speeches are published in all the local newspapers, and all Americans take an interest in him and his sincere efforts. I should like to send you some of these speeches, but you are loyal to your king; therefore it is better to drop the subject.

Burcher did not treat you fairly; I am really glad that these unpleasant experiences are a matter of the past. It was better to make a sacrifice than to risk a lawsuit, as it is always better to come to an agreement. I am filing your letters away when they are answered; this may explain my error in reference to your obligations regarding the *Gartenfeld*. Clärchen pays you 70 *Taler* per year, which is equivalent to 4 per cent interest on a capital of 1750 *Taler*. If this

capital were invested in this country at the rate of 10 per cent, it would pay you twice as much, after taking into consideration 2 per cent for expenses and postage fees. I think it would be unfair to stop the payments from the family fund. If you can get 70 *Taler* from Clärchen, 70 *Taler* from the *Gartenfeld*, and 30 *Taler* from the family fund, that is a total of 170 *Taler* per year, I believe it is well to stay in Germany; if you have to suffer want, then it is high time to emigrate.

The news about our relatives in Osnabrück, Clärchen W. and Dr. Reinhold, is very sad, Though we can say that we enjoy good health, nevertheless, we feel that our days of youth are over. My hair has turned gray, and my corpulence is beginning to annoy me. My rupture is troublesome, but I do not consider it dangerous, as I have a good bandage. One year passes after the other. For several weeks I was suffering from itching and burning feet, and I was scratching myself while sleeping, often so hard that I was bleeding. I am under the treatment of Dr. Berghaus, a homeopath, who came to this country a short time ago, and who is a friend of August. I had six holes in my legs, some of them as big as a ten-*Silbergroschen* piece; four are healed up, but two—the two biggest ones—are still open; they may be healed in about two weeks. The itching and burning are gone, and I have resumed my work again.

Mother and all the others are feeling well, the baby is gaining visibly and she has never been sick. Mathilde is strong and healthy. Our Fritz is still with the gardener and he likes it well. It is a good business, as social position does not mean much in this country. Of ten brothers one may be a pastor, the other a teacher, the third a merchant, the fourth a handicraftsman, the fifth an artist, the sixth a government clerk, the seventh a soldier, the eighth a farmer, the ninth a lawyer, and the tenth a gardener, and, if all lead a morally good life, they are considered good citizens, and their vocation makes no difference with the sole exception of possibly the pastor, as pastors are classed by many as idlers. It is one of the great advantages of this country that nobody cares how you make a living if you lead a respectable and morally good life; it is different with cheaters, gamblers, and loiterers. In spite of this fact I should have preferred it if Fritz had become a merchant. This would be a source of great worry for me if we were living in Germany, where everybody wants to know not only what you are but also what occupation your father has. It is different in this country, where all occupations lead to the same end, namely, an honest living.

Brother August visited us the other day; he is getting along well.

He is going to build a house this summer. Marie is at home now, and Lina has employment, chiefly to learn English. Herman Schroeder is a lawyer, but he has not much to do, as people have not much confidence in him, and he really does not deserve confidence. He also has a lottery office, which gives him a nice income. He lives in great state—has an expensive home and elegant furniture. He has no children and he and his wife enjoy life, and they live only for the present. His wife was a Miss Helene Klaus, of Coblenz, and she is a well educated young lady. She came to this country with three older sisters about six or seven years ago. These girls earn their living by sewing, and Helene, who is the youngest, gave piano and singing lessons. Their father and a brother arrived two years later; the brother is a carpenter. One daughter married a Mr. Mind, of Hamburg, and they are not getting along so well. The other girls are single and they earn their living sewing. Mrs. Schroeder is about thirty years old, she is said to be skilful in feminine occupations—sewing, embroidering, piano playing, singing, dancing, and riding. They tell me she is somewhat free and easy, like most people from Coblenz, and very fond of pleasure. She and her husband seem to lead a happy life, you can find them at every entertainment, and their friends are mostly artists, musicians, dancers, singers, actors, circus-riders, etc. They live for the present, and the future does not seem to worry them much. Both are skilful and talented, and they associate only with respectable people. Even when they lived in moderate circumstances, they never associated with common people.

We have had no more letters from Fr. Springmann, and we heard nothing from August Springmann until he arrived here unexpectedly the middle of January. He was with us four weeks, and I succeeded in getting him a job with L. & C. Speck (sons of Mrs. Speck, who visited you a few years ago). Three days later Speck told me that he could not use August, as he did not speak enough English. Speck knew this when he hired the boy, and I am inclined to believe that this was only a pretext to get rid of him. He may have had a letter from his Cousin Speck in Germany, and he may know about August's escapades. I was lucky in finding another job for him, this time in a hat store, and this may be better for him, as his new employers are Americans. He is getting along all right, but I should like to see him a little more unassuming and a little less obstinate, and it would be better for him if he should pass less time with cards or playing at billiards.

Hot-pressing is not a good trade in St. Louis, and I should prefer

it if our cousin Hieronymus stayed in Germany. The widow Busch, née Moll, arrived here safely in January, and the brothers were doubtless happy to meet her again. Probably the wish not to be a burden to her brothers, and perhaps other reasons, prompted the young widow with grown-up daughters to become engaged to a Royal Prussian lieutenant whom she met on the voyage. However, her brothers are not enthusiastic about her choice, as he wants to be nothing but an officer and gentleman, and as he does not wish to work. But the lovers married just the same, and they now live on their stocks and shares, which are becoming less and less. Since the brothers are having a hard struggle, it may be well for old lady Moll to remain in Germany.

Gottlieb Schroder told me today that he could not send money to his sister any more, as he had lost his farm, which was sold by court procedure. He intends to try his luck in California. Please tell Mr. Hendeler to send all letters for Schroder to Messrs. Fred Dings & Co. in St. Louis. A brother-in-law of Schroder, by the name of Hammerstein, is employed with this firm, and he will take care of the letters. I believe I have already written you that little Emma passed away.

Julius Winter called on us a few days ago, and he is on his way to Germany. We gave him a daguerreotype of Christiane and me, which is our present to our aged father. Julius does not intend to go to the Berg country, so we did not give him a picture for you. We shall send you one as soon as there is an opportunity, and you will get one of Mathilde also. You will notice from this picture that fifty years in this country is about the same as sixty years over there; in this warm climate everything grows faster, and consequently you get old faster. Our little girl was vaccinated today, and she, as well as every one of our household is enjoying good health. Our Carl, Fritz, Bernard (half-brother of Gildehaus), Uncle Fritz, and his two boys, and Springmann, in other words, "our Sunday visitors," were calling on us yesterday, and every one of them is feeling all right.

It seems that August did not have much luck in New Orleans; when he arrived here he told me that he had about \$150.00 left. He had a letter from his father yesterday wherein he mentioned that he might move to Cologne or Coblenz, very likely to Cologne, as he met with too many difficulties in Mayence. Is Dorfmueller still living, is he married, and what is he doing?

Farewell, my dear Julia; write soon and transmit our greetings to our dear cousins. How do our dear cousins look? Has Lenchen still rosy cheeks? And is Dorchen still corpulent? Is Ambros still

living? How is Julchen Strohn, and how is the pretty boy? Greetings to Spicker, etc.

Most heartfelt greetings to you, and keep us in kind memory.

Your faithful brother,

GUSTAVUS.

Hannchen is no older than Christiane, and she may pass for a young lady. Christiane tells me now that Mrs. Herman Schoeder is not thirty years but only twenty-two years old.

By first steamer via Liverpool.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., March 24 (1852).

Seebrief per England und Aachen, April 10 (1852).

Cöln-Minden, April 15, 1852.

Letter arrived in Lennep, April 18, 1852.

ST. LOUIS, MO., May 11, 1852.

Dear Julia:

I answered your kind letter of January 6 under date of March 22-23, and I hope to hear from you soon. Will you please take care of the enclosed letter for Springmann. I left the letter open; please read it, and seal carefully without tearing the seal.

We named our darling grandchild Julia Marie and we shall call her Marie, as Julia is not much used in this country. We should like for you to be her godmother, and the parents asked me to inquire if you will accept.

When Marie was sixteen weeks old she weighed just as many pounds, and she is developing well; Mathilde is feeling fine also. My feet are in good shape again, and I am feeling better than during all of last winter. Mother and all the others are enjoying the best of health. Our Fritz is about six inches taller than I am and about four inches taller than Carl. August continues to send us good news; Marie will visit us this week, and she may stay with us several months.

Trusting to get good news from you soon, which I shall answer with a lengthy letter, I am with kindest greetings,

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

By first steamer via Bremen.

Cancellation stamps read:

St. Louis, Mo., May 13 (1852).

New York, May 20 (1852).

America über Bremen.

Deutz, Minden, Elberfeld, June 8 (1852).

ST. LOUIS, MO., June 29, 1852.

Dear Sister Julia:

I received your kind letter of April 20 on May 13, and I note from your footnote that my letter of March 23 is in your possession; this letter answered several of your questions. I do not intend to write a long letter today, since—please do not be frightened—our trunks are packed, and Fritz Schmieding and I are going to leave on our trip to Germany the day after tomorrow, July 1. Christiane will not go with us, as she prefers to stay with Mathilde and our dear little Marie. Grandma thinks so much of both that she considers it her duty to be with the little darling during the extreme heat, as babies need much care during that time and when they are teething. Grandma feels that she would never enjoy this pleasure trip, as her thoughts would be continuously with Mathilde and the baby. On the other hand she regrets not to be able to visit you, our dear cousins, her aged father, and the Winters, as she certainly would like to see all of you once more. However, her love for Mathilde and the baby gained the victory.

Fritz and I intend to take the whole trip together, and you may expect us by the middle of October. We intend to travel via Louisville (2), Cincinnati (3), Maryville (1), Dayton (1), Columbus (1), Niagara Falls (3), New York (8), Le Havre (1), Paris (14), Strassborough (2), Mannheim (4), Trier (2), Rhine trip (8), Cologne (2), and we intend to stay in each as many days as the figure after the name indicates. We intend to enjoy the trip on the Rhine in particular and to take our time. We shall stay only a few days in Lennep and then go to Bünde as soon as possible. After a visit in Bünde of two weeks and perhaps Osnabrück, we shall return to Lennep. I intend to stay with you all winter, excepting a few short trips to Düsseldorf, Crefeld, Elberfeld, Barmen, Solingen, Remscheid, Gummersbach, etc., and Fritz will visit Munich, Vienna, Berlin, Hamburg, etc. We expect to return next spring on one of the first ships via Bremen and New Orleans.

As I said before, our trunks are packed, and since everybody is in good health, it is fairly certain that we are going to leave on July 1, and you may tell this to all your friends. I shall write you several times during the trip, from Paris, from the upper Rhine, and I intend to take this letter along to Louisville. If the cancellation stamp reads Louisville, you will know with absolute certainty that we have started on our trip, and that we have said farewell to our loved ones. August Springmann is in Louisville, and I shall write his father after seeing August. A short time ago I received \$200.00 from his father for August.

I sold my interest in the business, house, and lots to Gildehaus & Witte, and our former firm of Wulfing and Gildehaus ceased to exist. My address is now:

Mr. G. Wulfing
St. Louis, Mo.

I mention this in case you wish to write to Christiane. Witte is a young man, originating from Osnabrück, and he has been one of our friends for many years. He found gold dust in California, and he is a respectable and capable young man. We hope to have a happy and pleasant trip, as every one is in good health and everything is in good order.

You will get several letters for me, and I ask you to take care that somebody shall receive them for you in case you expect to be absent from Lennep this summer. Do not spend any money on account of us; otherwise we shall not stay longer than three days with you; but if you obey, and if you are really good, we intend to stay all winter, and we shall spend many a pleasant hour with you and our dear cousins. If only we have a cigar and sugar water, it will not be hard for us to keep up a conversation.

We are highly pleased that we could turn the house and the lots over to our children, particularly since we were able to buy a small lot in the neighborhood for Mother and me, where we intend to build our new house later on. With reference to Julius Wusthoff I shall fulfil your wish, but I packed the papers in my trunk, as I wish to show them to you, so that you may see that my claim is correct. Gottlieb Schroder went to California; if he is lucky, he will send money to his sister without any doubt; if he is not lucky, he simply cannot do it. To hear about the 500 *Taler* pleased me very much. Louise Langenohl is employed with Johan Schreiber, of Gummersbach, and she is getting along well.

This is all for the time being, there will be more news verbally.

Heartiest greetings from all of us, and particularly from

Your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

CINCINNATI, OHIO, July 6, 1852.

Dear Julia:

We, Fritz and I, left St. Louis on Thursday, July 1, and we are actually on our way to Germany. We saw August Springmann in Louisville and he seems to be all right. Old lady Pauck is not here

at the present time; she is with her children in St. Marys. We intend to call on her, even though this will cause a delay of about five days. The first 650 English miles (3 miles are one hour) were very pleasant and most interesting, but it is extremely hot. We had 92 degrees today.

Farewell, my dear sister, greetings to our dear cousins and friends who remember us in kindness.

Heartiest greetings to you from your loving brother,

GUSTAVUS.

It would please me to get a letter from you at the Springmann's or at Engels & Oellermann's in Cologne, or Johannes Oellermann's, in Bonn, or Wilhelm Illig's, at the "Hof von Holland" in Cologne; and if you should write me whether you are still living in the old house or not.

We have thought the matter over and we intend to go from Le Havre via Paris, Brussels, Aachen (Aix-la-Chapelle) to Cologne. From Cologne to Frankfort on the Main, via Mannheim, Mayence, Coblenz, Trier, back to Cologne. Then Fritz will go to Bünde, and I shall go to Lennep. After a few days I shall join Fritz in Bünde, and we both shall visit Hartenfelde, Osnabrück, and Bremen. We shall spend the winter partly in Lennep and partly in Bünde.

It will be wonderful to see each other after so many years, but I must ask you now to get accustomed to this thought so that you may control yourself. Please try to remember that convulsions, fainting spells, trembling, and weeping, and whatever else you may call it, are not at all necessary. To practice self control is our highest duty, and we shall find greater joy in seeing each other without emotion and excitement.

Once again, farewell.

Your
GUSTAVUS.

No cancellation stamps.

LETTER NO. 1¹

CINCINNATI, OHIO, July 6, 1852.

At last I have time to write. We started Thursday evening at half past five. I felt a little wobbly in my heart when one street after the other, and finally St. Louis disappeared, until I thought of the

¹ Here follows a series of letters to the family—St. Louis. Of these, number 4, addressed to Charles Wulfing, is missing. After number 6 the letters are no longer numbered. The first letter has no formal salutation.

joy which we shall experience when on our return from New Orleans on the same river one street after another will appear, until we shall finally reach the foot of Market Street, where we shall take the omnibus for home.

I could not write on the boat, as it shook too much, and because I did not wish to miss anything of the sights, which were more or less interesting, but always extremely magnificent. Fritz and I were highly pleased in spite of the fact that Fritz had a falling out with Aunt Meyer, who refused to see him. When I was on the way from my devotional prayers I met my friend Loehr, of L. B. & Co., who was coming from the deposit bank. On the boat we met Mr. Child, of C. Pratte & Co., and we had nice traveling companions. My diary will tell you all about the boats we met, and also about the larger and smaller cities and towns which we passed.

The name of our boat was "General Pike." About 200 miles before Louisville we met the "Fashion" with a broken shaft. As the "Fashion" belongs to the same company, we took her in tow; her passengers and cargo were transferred to our boat, and we were transferred to the "Fashion." The "General Pike" returned to St. Louis, and we continued on the "Fashion" and arrived in the shipping port of Louisville on Sunday morning at 9 o'clock, with one wheel. We sent our trunks to the Wall Street House in Louisville per furniture wagon for fifty cents and took the omnibus.

We went to the barber first (ten cents) and then to Julius' store. We found his store in first-class order, but business is bad, and they hardly make their expenses. Then we were looking for Springmann, who earns his livelihood by selling newspapers and by working in an insurance company. His landlord told us that he is working steadily and that he pays him fairly promptly. I mentioned to August that Gildehaus and Witte would loan him twenty-five dollars in case of need, and that he should not hesitate to make use of this offer. We called on Christian Nasse, of Bielefeld, who is a very interesting man, full of enthusiasm for the improvement of the world, and I should not be surprised if he spends all of his money for that purpose. We saw Wulkopf, a very polite and fine gentleman, also the wife of Dr. D., a very talkative beauty with scars on her neck, and a mighty big organ of speech, with arms bare to the shoulders; and she inquired about Mother and Mathilde, and she was highly pleased to see their pictures. We called on Hymann, our old neighbor; his daughter is married and he, together with his two sons, has three stores.

In the evening Dr. Dunhoff called on us. He has aged consider-

ably, was pleased to see us, and he stayed with us until midnight. On Monday we called on John Smidt and Schwarts, who were very friendly, then we saw old man Mueller, the painter; he was touchingly pleased to see us. He is well preserved and he is in good circumstances.

At ten o'clock we went to our mail boat, where Mr. Benedict, of Andrew & Low, called on us. He was delighted to see us, particularly Fritz, with whom he was better acquainted. Ettlinger and Lindenheim are in New York, and the latter is seriously ill. We met Mr. McFadden, of Commercial Street, on the boat. Henry Weyhr wrote Julius that he intends to come on August 1, as he does not like the existing conditions; this of course does not refer to his relatives. Christian Nasse reminds us a good deal of our late friend Loxen, only Loxen was too economical, and Nasse is not economical at all; and he may have spent all of his German money before he learns how to take care of it.

On Monday afternoon we started for Cincinnati. Here we called first on apothecary Fritsch. His wife, Dorchen Pauck, is a small but very pretty little lady, something on the order of Aunt Meisner, but she is not so loquacious. Fritsch and Henry Pauck were very obliging. Henry has a nice cigar store, apparently he is doing well, and he seems to be a bright young man. Aunt Pauck, Julia and August Pauck, and the Herzings live in St. Marys. Today, Wednesday, July 7, we are going to leave by train, sixty miles in two and a half hours, for Dayton, and from there per canal boat over Sunday, as railroads do not run on Sunday. Monday morning we shall leave by railroad for Buffalo, from there to Niagara Falls and New York. I shall write you again from New York, and I trust to get a long letter from you by that time.

We called on Backhaus yesterday afternoon; they have not changed much and they were very kind. She is hollow cheeked and her chin is exceedingly long, but her gift of speech is the same as ever. I forgot to show them the pictures, but I shall do this in the afternoon, as our boat does not leave before four o'clock. Aunt Pauck is said to be well preserved, Fritsch intends to go with us to St. Marys, and all the old matters are finally settled. The capital of 3,000 *Taler* arrived from Germany, plus 800 *Taler* interest, a total of 3800 *Taler*. Herzing is taking care of this money for the time being; we expect to hear more about the matter from Aunt Pauck, and we wonder if she will really get the benefit of this money.

The family was in great distress until Peter Henry passed away. He left nothing but debts and troubles, and he blocked every effort

of his sons; they tell me that his wife suffered terribly. It was her greatest desire for many years to visit her sister and brother in St. Louis, but she could never save enough money to do this. We shall see to it that the capital is properly invested, and that she gets the interest for herself. We should like to see her independent of her children in spite of the fact that all her children are good to her. Aunt Backhaus has seven children, and her oldest daughter is engaged to Kohnen Hennecken—the “old-ones” seem to be very fond of Hennecken, or possibly of his \$30,000.00.

I have to finish now as I cannot write everything. As I have no intention of breaking C. R. H.’s heart, I shall indicate our experience with a few catchwords: Pudding, wine, ice cream, champagne, sardines, cake, and asparagus.

In Louisville a handsome young man escorted two pretty young ladies to the boat, and the prettier one returned with him to the city. I never did see anything more beautiful since my great retreat. *Hergottsacrementdonnerwetter!* Such a stature, such a beautiful neck, such a b., such a pretty face, such wonderful eyes—No, this is not a dream—God forgive me, such a little mouth with ivory setting! Oh, Oh, Gustavus, this is nothing for you!—But you may look at her!

Fear not, my dear Mother, I remained faithful to you, even in my thoughts. I passed her up and I did not even whisper a word of love and sweet dreams. But I admired her extraordinary beauty from a distance, and when I could not see her any longer, I turned my back on her.

How are you, my darling, did you console yourself? We are feeling excellent; the continuous change keeps us in constant excitement, and I have not found time as yet to collect my thoughts.

On the way to Louisville I wore heavy underwear and a vest, and now it is so hot that nobody cares to go out. It is a good thing that I did not take a hat along. Dr. Fritsch has moved to Evansville. Cincinnati has improved wonderfully. They have a hotel with 322 rooms; furthermore, the railroad, canal, and a great number of wonderful buildings. We have had our things laundered.

Farewell, my darling; I shall write again in New York. Kisses to our little Mariechen, and greetings to all of you. I could write a good deal more, but my diary will give you more information. I am going to post this letter now, and I may take a walk through the city. We shall leave for St. Marys at four o’clock.

Farewell, all of you.

Your
G. W.

Fritz is not here; otherwise he would add a few lines. He intends to do this in New York.

Good-bye.

*Dear Uncle:*²

Carl, the sinner, did not take care of this letter. Julius Winter's letter was already forwarded, so I mail this letter separately. Please excuse my haste. I am going to mail Father's next letter later on.

HY. GILDEHAUS.

Cancellation stamp reads:
Cincinnati, July 7 (1852):

LETTER NO. 2.

BUFFALO, N. Y., July 14, 1852.

Dear Mother, my darling, and you other loved ones all together:

I trust you received my letter of the 7th inst. from Cincinnati. We arrived here safely this afternoon. Uncle Fritz is viewing the city, but I prefer to chat with you. We had a good lodging house with bad meals in Cincinnati, which was recommended to us by our old friend Mueller, and Uncle Fritz has not yet got over this disappointment.

Dr. Fritsch has moved to Evansville, Indiana, and his brother, the pharmacist, was extremely eager to please us. He drove us in his grocery wagon all over the city; it was a hot afternoon but in spite of this his well-trained pony was so fast that everything in my stomach was so well shaken up that I vomitted twice that evening; but I felt all right in the morning. He, his darling wife, Dorchen Pauck, and Henry Pauck did their utmost to show us a good time and to make our stay in Cincinnati as pleasant as possible. Henry Pauck has a cigar store across the street from Fritsch and he is doing well. The pharmacist does not seem to do so well; I doubt that he is a good business man, and it appeared to me that he and his beloved Dorchen are a little careless and untidy, I might say dirty. They intend to move to St. Marys. Backhaus and wife were pleased to see us. He is stout and somewhat puffed up, and she has aged considerably.

We left Cincinnati by train and we did not see much on account of the great speed. From Dayton we went by canal to St. Marys, where we met Aunt Pauck in her kitchen at five o'clock in the morn-

² This letter apparently was sent, after some delay, to another member of the family for his enjoyment.

ing. She recognized us immediately and she was highly pleased to see us. She has aged very much, which shows particularly around the mouth, but she is in good health and well satisfied. Then came Julia Pauck, a nice but somewhat stern girl, who is not squint-eyed any more. Then August Pauck, who is extremely quiet and unassuming; then Elise Herzing, née Pauck, a little slender, but healthy and looking well. Herzing himself was off on a business trip. They have four nice and, you may say, pretty children. The oldest one, of whom Carl spoke so much, is the prettiest, and she is very skilful. She showed me a little knife which Carl gave her and she inquired earnestly about him. She did not stop admiring the pictures, in fact every one was highly pleased to see the pictures. We had an excellent time in St. Marys. August Pauck is in partnership with a young man from Frankfort named Bieber, and they bought Herzing's old store. Herzing owns a flour mill, and he handles flour, meal, barley, etc. He will write to G. & W., and he may take a business trip to St. Louis in the fall. I believe G. & W. can add farina to their line.

Julia Pauck told me that she and a friend of hers, the daughter of a minister, went for a walk with Carl, and that her girl friend, a highly educated and pretty girl of sixteen years of age, fell in love with the handsome and friendly young man. Julia had to tell her much about her kind Cousin Carl. Later on her father decided to go to Texas, but he returned disappointed, and her girl friend married a minister.

Carl was liked by every one, without exception, and old lady Pauck considered him *Primus A No. 1*, and I am highly pleased to hear this—like sire, like son, you know.

The 3000 *Taler* arrived from Germany with interest at last. The married children, Elise and Theodore, received their share of the capital, and they pay six per cent interest to their mother. Herzing kept the balance against security, and he pays ten per cent interest to Mother. From the interest they will pay old man Pauck's obligations first, for example \$100.00 to Uncle Fritz, etc. At any rate Aunt Pauck has something to live on, but she certainly had a hard struggle while Pauck was living. Julia gave up teaching, as she could not stand it any longer; she kept it up out of necessity only. It was a good thing for the boys, too, that the old man passed away; he kept the boys down, and they are making nice headway now with the aid of Herzing and Fritsch. The section between Dayton and St. Marys is low and feverish, but well populated; mills, flood-gates, and small cities give this part of the country an interesting aspect.

We continued our trip on Sunday morning, July 11, per canal to Toledo. While on the way the horses ran away, and the crew had to pull the boat until they succeeded in catching the horses. There is a feeder pond near Ste. Marys, which keeps the canal filled with water—really an artificial lake, eight miles long and four miles wide. Many sportsmen come from Cincinnati and the other small cities to shoot fowl, deer, roe-bucks, etc.; I thought *nolens volens* of Ambros Bello and Christian Rudolph. I met Mr. Gustavus Epelin in St. Marys, who is a fine gentleman; he sends greetings to Mr. Anheuser, at Riggs & Co., and he wishes him to answer his last letter; Gildehaus may find time to take care of this. Pauck's portrait with high standing collar and neckcloth reminded me vividly of the old Ph. H. Herzing is said to be worth \$8000.00, August Pauck \$1500.00, Henry Pauck \$800.00, and Fritsch \$2000.00; and the three mentioned first have a good line of business. St. Marys, like all the other places on the canal, is located low, and we do not like this; the cost of living is unusually reasonable.

We left St. Marys at five o'clock in the morning for Toledo, which is a city of 500 inhabitants. The canal, the railroad, and its location near Lake Erie indicate that this will become an important business center. We met Herzing in Toledo, a most peculiar specimen. He has an ordinary face, broad nose, no expression in his eyes, and he sniffs and grimaces; but in spite of all this a fine fellow and a business man through and through. He may move to Toledo, but he intends to keep his mill in St. Marys. He introduced us to Messrs. Brand and Lenk, two jolly fellows, who own a liqueur and wine business. If we had not been on our guard, we might have had too much genuine imported Hochheimer! Gildehaus, take the lid off! Lenk originates from Würzburg, and he is the seventh cousin of Herzing. Brand comes from Ruhrort; he used to travel for Petersen and Winkelmann in Elberfeld, and he sends greetings to Herman Moll. In Toledo we slept with the windows open, which caused my face to swell a little, but it is all right again.

We took a steamboat trip on Lake Erie; the shores were not visible, but there was a lighthouse in the lake, which was most interesting. The boat rocked more than a Mississippi steamer, but we did not get seasick. The sea air was very invigorating, and our entire trip was extremely interesting and pleasant up to a certain point; may our good Lord comfort the ladies on the canal and on the railroad, and most of all on the lake, where most of the ladies had to vomit. We did not meet another beautiful woman like our Kentucky beauty. It was a big low-pressure boat with three decks. We

met a Jew on the boat who had come directly from Louisville, and he was on his way to Monroe, Michigan. He told me that Borries and Co., of Louisville, received a telegram from New York stating that Lindenheim and also a sister of Mr. Borries had passed away.

Tomorrow morning we are going to leave by railroad for Niagara Falls, and tomorrow evening we shall start for Albany by traveling all night. We shall travel by steamboat on the Hudson River from Albany to New York. We trust to get a letter from you in New York, and we hope it will contain nothing but good news. You have no idea how eager we are to hear from you. We are healthy and happy; there are a few little matters I cannot write about, such as joy, jokes, and minor troubles.

Greetings to all of you, and heartfelt love to you in particular, my darling, also to Mathilde, Mariechen, Fritchen, Carl, Gildehaus, and Witte.

Your
GUSTAVUS.

I am going to write again from New York.

Just to show you that I am still living, I am adding most cordial greetings to all of you—*tout ensemble!* Extra greetings and kisses to my dear little Bertha!

In love, Your
F. E. SCHMIEDING.

Dear Uncle:³

Here is another letter of Father which will please you. I am sorry but I have to add sad news. Dr. Berghaus notified us just now that his wife will be buried this afternoon at four-thirty o'clock, as the neighbors insisted upon it. Mrs. Berghaus became suddenly ill on Wednesday morning and she passed away in the afternoon.

Morgenrot leuchtet uns zum frühen Tod!

"Evening red and morning grey,
Sets the traveler on his way!"

Mother wishes Marie to write her as soon as the new house is completed and she will come and visit you, but only under the condition that Marie (Miss Marie) will return with her to visit us.

C. R. H. G.

ST. LOUIS, July 23, 1852.

No cancellation stamp.

³ Cf. *supra* n. 2.

LETTER No. 3.

NEW YORKIEN, July 24, 1852.

We received your most pleasant letter of the 15th day before yesterday, and we were pleased about the good news. Thanks to God, everything has gone well so far; we have had a wonderful and interesting trip, and we have met interesting people; it is a good deal of extra work to enter everything in my diary. We feel like genuine backwoodsmen who had come to St. Louis for the first time. Not everything in New Yorkien is workien, oh no, these people know how to live. Merchants (some of them) work from half past nine till three o'clock, and they enjoy themselves the balance of the day; everyone to his liking.

I am confident that you have received my letter of the 14th from Buffalo in the meantime. Since then we have experienced much and have seen many grand sights. I am going to give you a short report, as time is too valuable here to spend it writing letters. I intend to enter everything in my diary on the ocean. Well then, we were in Buffalo. On Lake Erie we met a Jew from Milwaukee, named Biersag. My friend Biersag took a walk, met a number of German emigrants, started a conversation, and began to give good advice, etc., e. g.: Take our boat and go to Monroe. Bang, some one hit him in the face, two, three times in succession. When he came to his senses, a so-called runner—a German immigrant agent—advised him to mind his own business, and not to interfere in other people's affairs. He rushed back to us and cried: "Oh, wey! These d—d Germans, these dogs, hit me in the face, it's a shame. It would have been better to stay at home and not trouble myself about others. Oh wey! My poor eye, they might have killed me, and I would not know why!"

The next day, on the 15th, we went by train to Niagara. We continued to the Falls before our trunks were unloaded. Tante Speck may describe the Falls to you, I shall only outline our trip. We took an omnibus to the Falls, the fare was twelve and a half cents per person; then we walked over the cable-bridge. We stopped midway of the bridge for a quarter of an hour, gazed with astonishment, knelt down in our thoughts, and adored the Creator of this magnificent scenery of nature; the bridge toll amounted to twenty-five cents per person. On the Canadian side of the bridge we drove in a hack to the Devil's Bridge, twelve and a half cents per person. Then we walked about twenty steps under the actual falls and returned to the American side by boat. A hydraulic elevator took me

to the top, about 290 steps; Fritz preferred to walk. Crossing by boat was twelve and a half cents and elevator six and a quarter cents. Then we went to the steamer "Maid of the Mist," which passed underneath the falls. They charged fifty cents per person and twenty-five cents extra for a gum arabic topcoat and cap. We were wet all over—spray from the falls. We walked over another bridge, looked at the Indian stores, but bought nothing, as everything was extremely high priced, and returned to Niagara, where we ate dinner at four o'clock. At about six in the evening we started by train for Rochester and Albany. In Albany we took the steamer "Reindeer" to New York. In the morning we had a cup of coffee with Yankee tricks for fifty cents.

In New York we stopped at Diez, Praessel's Hotel, 32 Beekman Street. One room with two beds for seventy-five cents a night. Breakfast twenty-five cents, table d'hôte fifty cents, or in place of this twenty-five cents for dinner and twenty-five cents for supper. Our expenses here will be from a dollar to a dollar and a half per day. We shall leave for London one week from today, on Saturday, July 31, by the "Sir Robert Peel," Captain Chadwick, and the passage is sixty dollars per person in first-class cabin.

We intend to stay two or three days in London. From London to Dover, Calais, Paris; in Paris eight to ten days. From there to Basle via Strasbourgh. From Basle on the Rhine down-stream to Düsseldorf. As we shall be on the ocean about four weeks, we do not expect to leave Paris before the middle of September. If you will write to Quincy immediately upon receipt of this letter, and if August answers without delay, and if you write your own letter in the meantime, and mail everything as soon as you receive August's letter from Quincy, then I can see no reason why your letter should not arrive in Paris on time; I shall give you our address in Paris at the end of this letter. After this first letter mail a letter every two weeks, and address all other letters to:

Mr. Gustavus Wulfing
c/o Miss Julia Wulfing
Lennep
Près de Cologne.

I should appreciate it if C. R. H. G. would use paper which does not blot so much. I received your letter in the evening, but I could not read G.'s letter until the next morning in daylight.

Now I shall tell you about New York. First we met Mr. Wolff, of Wolff and Engert, in our hotel, then Bolenius, Franke, Winzer,

of Minden, and Winzer, the pharmacist of Bünde, Ahlborn, Beiderhase, Ettlinger, Hardt, Oellermann, Storsberg, Hilger, Fr. Dings, Felix Koster, Klein, F. I. Meier, Helmich, Schmidt, James Lawson of Louisville, Louis Speck, Wellenkamp of Düsseldorf, an old experienced traveler. We did not meet Brahe, he was sick, but he is now on his way to St. Louis to call for his wife. We visited the famous beer garden of Tichler; we saw Mr. Menke, a goldsmith of St. Louis, and this morning Mr. William Meyers of Flohr, Meyers and Co. We bathed in the sea at the Battery several times. We went to a French theatre. If Hansgen knew this, he would say: "That's remarkable, very remarkable indeed!"

We visited a big American ocean steamer which had such wonderful equipment as we never saw before in this beautiful world. A royal palace is hardly furnished in more costly fashion. We went on board the warship "Mississippi." This is the ship which brought Kossuth over. We looked the whole ship over, particularly the interior parts. It is a big warship with three decks, seventy-four guns, and a crew of eleven hundred men. We saw a bigger ship under construction which will have a hundred and twenty-four guns; also a dry dock which cost two million dollars. This is used either to build or to repair ships. We visited the arsenal in Hoboken, also Williamsburgh, Staten Island, the Battery, the Custom-House, the Tombs, and the notorious Five Points.

We are eating in different restaurants, in short, we aim to see and to investigate everything worth seeing, and I am completely worn out at times. In the evening we take a walk on Broadway, or in a public park. If it were 1825 in place of 1852, or if I were twenty-three years old instead of fifty, I should not go in the parks or on Broadway, as you can observe things of which no one ever dreams in St. Louis: from A No. 1 in silk and velvet, with large white shawls, to the drunken strumpet who may be arrested any moment. If you wish to experience inextinguishable disgust at such a life, you must visit the Five Points. We passed through this district on a bright morning—any other time you must be escorted by the police, and even policemen dare not go alone; in short, it is the highest degree imaginable of human immorality. In every face you can read thievish disposition, murder, etc.; the next street is as respectable as can be, and you feel that you are again with human beings. We wanted to see everything that is to be seen, but I have to admit that I saw more than I desired.

We called on Mr. Delius, of Bielefeld, who lives in Brooklyn; he is a son of Mr. Arnold Delius. A Miss Charlotte Bunte lives in

282 Carl Meyer
Wm. Meyer
283 Carl Meyer
Wm Meyer
Wohl
284 Mrs. Kunst
285 Bodake
286 Edward Meyer
Cholera
288 Underfoot
295 bottom
Carl Meyer Wm Meyer
297 Carl Meyer
Cholera
296 bottom - 200 off
his religious work 200
106 Common Carl Meyer
13 2000 other people
Schmieding
8 August 2
into house 8 7 - 10 1
with only 550

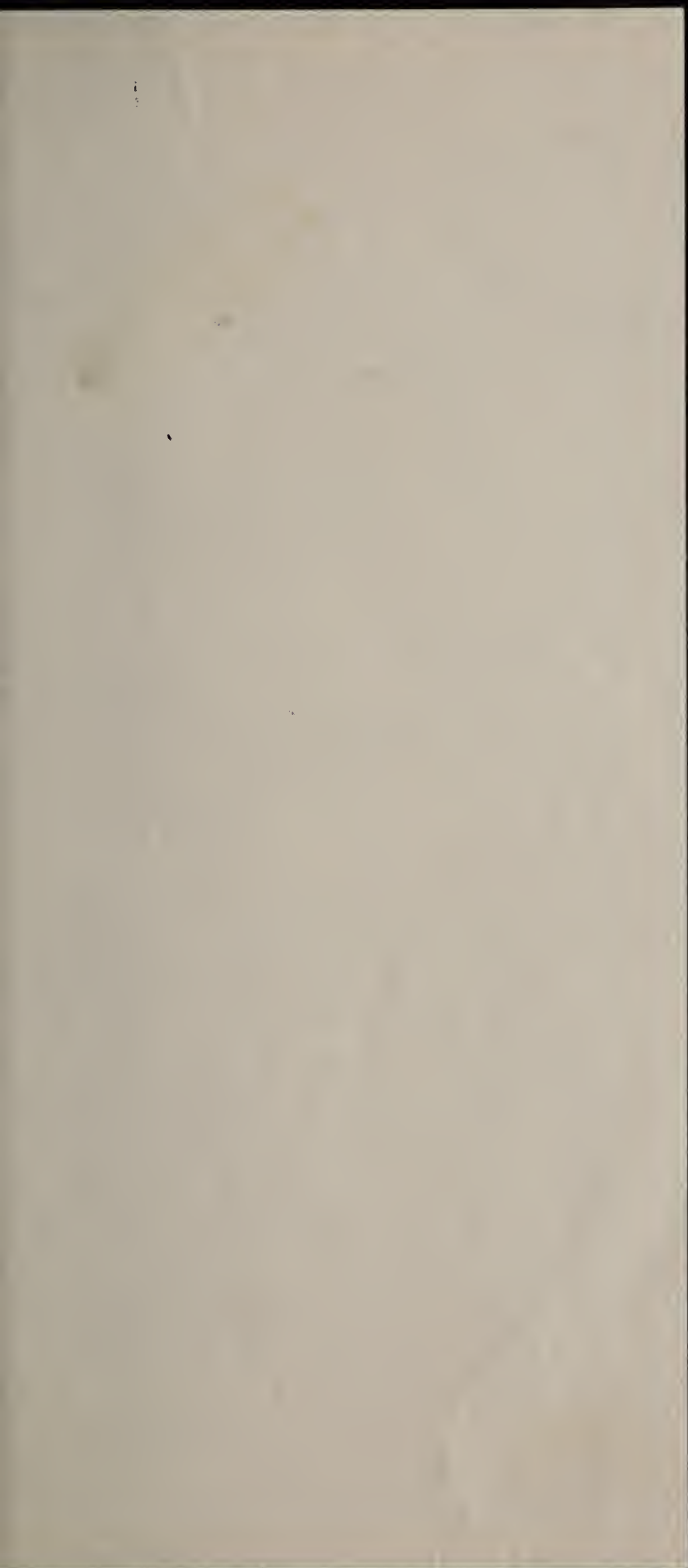
183 Meyer from
184 Quincy 20
184 F. Meyer
188 George Meyer
198 William Meyer
203 Kunst
242 C. Meyer
265 Underfoot
William Meyer
261 Fatty
William Meyer
John Meyer
267 136
unnecessary numbers)
and through 208
274 Underfoot 8
Wm. Meyer
276 political

5 SOUTHMOOR
CLAYTON, MO.

My dear Miss Mima -

Should you find reference to relatives
or friends of the family in this book -
will you please make a notation - &
~~also~~ write what you can - In this
way we will have an even
more interesting book -

Cordially
Hildegarde -



377. The widow Meyer

Hartenfelde

378 Weymann Flohr

379 Old Uncle Meyer

380 Hartenfelde Papa Meyer

Meyer Betting

Carl Meyer

387 Carl Meyer &

Agathe

Wohls of Gummarsbach
and their children &

Frank's people

Son Carl (now Black
& Mrs) Frank with

(Abel & Young)

Widow of von Berg

391 Wollheim

Meyer's child

the same house, and Fritz knew Miss Bunte in Minden. She is a highly educated lady and she knew Aunt Agathe well. Ettlinger arranged it so that Fritz would meet her, and I wonder if this meeting will have any effect on Uncle Fritz. We heard that Julius Winter is engaged to be married to a Miss Haldermann, of Bünde. Mr. Delius was very friendly and not at all formal. Charlotte Bunte would be the right wife for Fritz in my opinion, but I do not know how Fritz feels about this. Delius and his wife invited us to spend Wednesday with them, and this may reveal if she is something for Fritz or not.

I intended to mail my letter this morning, but we went to Long Island, seven miles from here. We had such wonderful sights and I do not remember that I ever saw anything like it before. We saw more than one hundred ships in the harbor, or coming and going. My sketch may give you an idea, but I admit that I do not know if it is correct. New York has a population of 517,000, and Brooklyn, Williamsburgh, Hoboken, and other smaller places, all opposite New York, have 500,000 inhabitants, a total of one million people! Even if we should stay six weeks, we should not have time enough to see everything. We shall call on Delius and wife next Wednesday, and we shall go to the Brooklyn Cemetery, where they have monuments worth \$20,000.00.

It is impossible to describe New York. We are going out from morning till evening, and there is still more to be seen. The clocks in the church steeples have transparent faces, and you can read the time even in the darkest nights. Such stir and bustle, such rattling, I am in a continuous bewilderment, and it is impossible to collect my thoughts; every moment something new which crowds out everything. I hope to be able to write on the sea, otherwise too much will be forgotten. We are enjoying everything without great expense, we lose no time, we shun no effort, as we aim to see as much as possible, for New York offers everything. I am curious to see what London and Paris will have to offer.

As I said before, we St. Louisans are nothing but backwoods-men compared to the New Yorkers. Everything is of interest to us, we like it here, and we feel ten years younger. Last night I retired an hour earlier than Uncle Fritz. A little later I awoke accidentally, I saw Fritz at the window, watching two girls undressing, and taking advantage of this good opportunity to catch fleas. A wonderful pastime! I heard a nice joke about Broadway, but this can be told only verbally; it was not à la Klockenbring, but a "slip-away," a "let'm languish"—simply a great joke. Since we started on our trip

we have heard more jokes and we have laughed more than we would have in a year under ordinary conditions. How many times have we wished to have the one or the other, or all of you, here with us, as the joke may be! In spite of all this we are very careful and economical, and if this trip does not improve our general condition, there is nothing left for us except confining ourselves in a cloister.

Madame Delius wanted to know if I was always so gay, etc. We were talking about Garlich, who lives in Brooklyn too. Delius is a freethinker, I acted the counterpart, and she was highly amused when he had to give in. Finally I was to describe my heaven, but I could not stand it any longer, and we dropped the subject. Meanwhile Fritz was talking to Miss Bunte; she mentioned that she knew Agathe slightly but not very well. Agathe told Fritz that she could not understand why her friend Charlotte did not write, and she expected a visit from her.

The trip to New York cost \$70.00 for me alone, without considering food; this includes \$10.00 for six shirts, \$5.00 for the trunk, \$5.50 for shoes, and \$2.00 for exchange. My expenses in New York will be about \$25.00, passage to London \$60.00; that is the total cost to London will be about \$155.00. From London to Lennep may cost about \$145.00; this would make a total of \$300.00 for the journey to Germany. The return trip will cost \$100.00, and this will leave me \$100.00 to cover expenses in Germany. I have made a record of everything. My diary is entered up to Buffalo, and I intend to bring it up to date on the ocean. I am convinced that this will be most interesting reading for years to come.

The currency in New York consists of twelve-and-a-half-cent shillings and six-and-one-quarter-cent pieces. Quarters and bits are worth twenty-five cents and twelve and a half cents respectively. I did not see any ten-cent or five-cent pieces. Our ocean voyage may last only three weeks, hence it will be necessary to write to Quincy without delay, and to post your letter to Paris as soon as possible. I received my passport and everything is all right. My address in Paris is:

Mr. G. Wulfing
Hôtel Violet
Voubourgh, Posonière
Boulevard
Paris.

It will be well to repeat everything of importance in your first letter to Lennep, as it is possible that your letter to Paris may not arrive on time, but this is not very likely.

A Hudson River

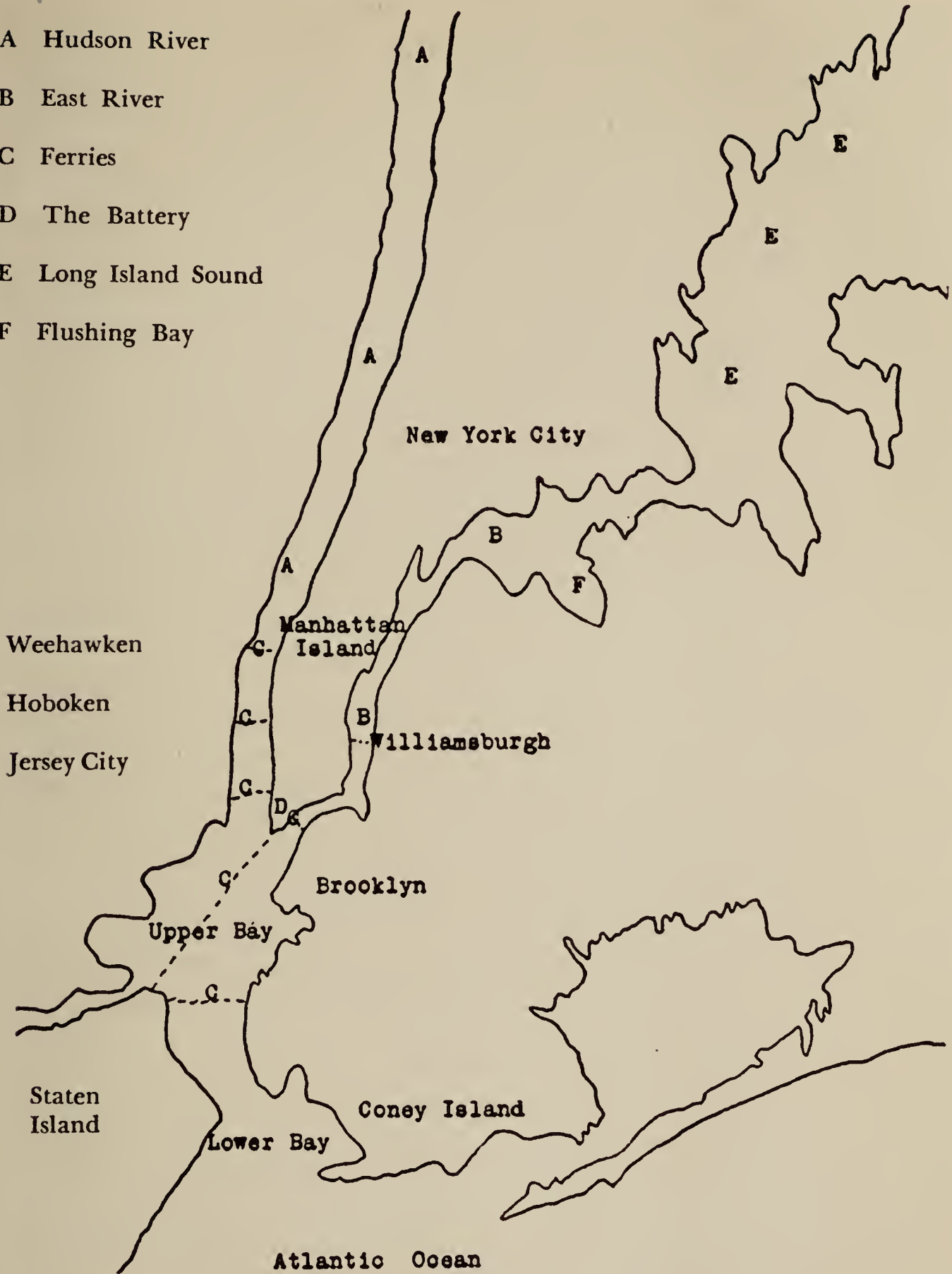
B East River

C Ferries

D The Battery

E Long Island Sound

F Flushing Bay



We had dinner at Ettlinger's. He has a nice, a very nice home, a homely wife, and a homely mother-in-law; he is the same hypocrite as ever, who can laugh with one eye and weep with the other at the same time. The women were in black from top to toe on account of their brother Herman, who passed away on July 2. I had

to suppress a smile when he bowed to his dear wife and asked with repulsive civility for the key to the wine cabinet. In Williamsburgh I met one of the Germans with whom we became acquainted on Lake Erie. "Oh, my dear stout friend, this is a strange country! I was dreaming of freedom of speech, and when I made a few remarks about Kossuth, I was beaten and what a beating it was! Look at my eyes—I call this a thrashing; even if others call it a thousand times 'fighting,' I insist it was a d—d thrashing!"

I called on Beiderhase once more. He had a letter from C. R. H. G., and he is willing to help his sister, but he does not wish to support his dear brother-in-law. I did not meet his wife, but I may call on him another time. They had a great parade here in honor of Henry Clay. A local newspaper, *Der Beobachter*, "The Observer," would be an excellent paper for Kribben and Borstein to read; they might profit by reading it. You can see most wonderful things here, e. g. iron bedsteads from \$5.00 to \$100.00; ladies combs à la mode, etc. We were in Stuart's famous store in which 300 clerks are employed. Such a bustle department would be something for Barney. We went to Jenin's and when asked: "What can I do for you, gentlemen?" We answered: "We are from the far West and we want to see the great hat store à la Jenny Lind." "Gents, here we are, but now come next door and let us have something to drink à la Jenny Lind," and off we went with him. Everything is first class here. The "little house" of the West is called "water-closet" in New York. A barber calls himself a "Sicilian hair invigorator."

I was really pleased to see that every one of you wrote a few lines; you have no idea how much pleasure this gave me. My dear Mother and my darling Tixchen, please tell "the gardener" to add a few lines too the next time. I trust that the little darling will develop nicely and that the mother takes good care of herself. I am pleased to hear that Carl is calling so regularly, and that all of you are well satisfied. There is plenty of work to be done, and do not fail to collect the outstanding accounts. No letter from Julius! Too much love and no time to write! Tante Haldermann's inclination to emigrate, *nous verrons*, "we shall see!"

My dearest Christelchen, you wrote me not to forget you! You should have said for me to stop thinking of you all the time! When I see a nice-looking girl I am thinking of my Christelchen. That's the way it is all the time whatever I do, whatever I see, taste, smell, hear, and feel, I am thinking of you, my only one, my heartily beloved darling!

Greetings to Mrs. Speck, the Clages, etc. It pleased us to see

that Carl is so well satisfied with his balance. Did you make a bargain with Gildehaus? Hardt seems to think that Julia can manage well, and he has his doubts about her wishing to come to this country. So much the better for her.

When you write again, please write each and every one of you. I shall mail a few newspapers, which you will find most interesting. Marie should never marry a minister. Singing, praying, turning up the eyes, feigning—what a life for a pleasure-loving young girl like Marie! It would be a crime to sell her soul to a minister. What would she have in this world? Plenty of children and plenty of books; praying, singing, and dissembling, and for a change, dissembling, singing, and praying!

Be careful about a store on the New Market. Small and clean, but A No. 1. Do not overlook repairing the oats storeroom. It is not clear to me how you wish to fix the door. Please write in detail about this and give me a better explanation. A roof of this kind may cause a lot of trouble, and it may be hard to keep water-tight; a large waterspout of zinc may be bad when you have a heavy snow. Have you bought your winter supply of wood?

Greetings to Winkelmeyer, Hansgen, etc. I did not overlook writing a receipt for the \$340.00; I intended to settle this *optima forma* later on. I charged my account in my own handwriting, and I regarded this as a payment on account, as I may need \$160.00 more before I leave Germany. This would settle my account up to July 1 of next year. There is no need to change this at the present time.

It is getting dark, and I hope you are satisfied with this long letter; please write as soon as possible. Heartfelt greetings and kisses, also to Mariechen and Berthachen.

Farewell now, and consider this a letter for each and every one of you.

Greetings and kisses from your

G.

Fritzchen, do not overlook to add a few lines for your father to the next letter.

Our steamer does not stop in Liverpool, we are going to London directly. Wm. Meyer is going to move to our hotel tomorrow, as there is a room vacant. Things are here about the same as at Madame Nohl's. I forgot the buckles for my new white suspenders. The six new shirts for \$10.00 are excellent and they fit perfectly. Our room is on the fourth floor. I walk the sixty steps about four times a day up and down, and besides I am on my feet all day. Again farewell!

The story of Tante Bunte and Fritz is a Klockenbrink's tale of my own making; neither she nor Uncle Fritz knows anything about it. I wrote to Paris on August 9.

Letter No. 4, from New York to Mr. Charles Wulfin, is missing.

LETTER NO. 5.

ATLANTIC OCEAN, STEAMER "SIR ROBERT PEEL"
ABOUT 400 MILES OFF THE ENGLISH COAST.
August 24, 1852.

Dear Mother and Children, etc.:

The sea is as quiet as the pond behind our house, and we shall reach London soon if the wind remains favorable. You may have heard through Meyer, who escorted us to the boat, that we left New York on the 2nd inst. We have had a wonderful trip so far and there has been no storm. This is an excellent ship with a friendly American captain and friendly officers.

Our fellow cabin-passengers are nice people, a wealthy American with wife and seven children; Mr. Vogel, of St. Louis, with wife and five children; two American physicians, a California millionaire, two young Jesuits from Switzerland—twenty-four persons altogether, but none of them plays whist, solo, or sixty-six, and they are useless when it comes to card games.

Besides these there is an elderly lady, who claims that this is her seventh trip across the ocean; her greatest attraction is eating crackers all day long and keeping her vomiting-pot next to her. Fritz had intermittent fever the last day in New York, but he is all right on the ship. We both were seasick for one day but have been feeling well since, though I am suffering from a headache more or less. The voyage is terribly tiresome and we are glad that land is so near.

Fritz will notify Bolenius of our safe arrival, and I am going to enclose this letter. We intend to stay four days in London and then we shall go to Paris. I am going to write a long letter after we receive yours in Paris. There is not much to be said about the ocean trip; they serve terrible meals, and we have a cow on board. We saw three ships today, and we suffer a good deal from tediousness, but we are talking about you all the time. How is our dear little Mariechen, and how are all the others; Oh, if we could be only one day with you! We have had fine weather; I am wearing my heavy suit practically all the time; my old coat is only fit to wear on the

return trip. You should see how we look; my whole face is covered with a beard, as I shave only my mustache, which is easily done, and I am inclined to let my beard grow. We pass the time with guessing riddles, charades, or playing tricks, but everyone has exhausted himself, and we do not know how to entertain ourselves. I do not want to write or read; I cannot do it when the sea is not calm, and, as I said before, I have a headache when the sea is quiet. We saw several whales in the distance and one near our ship; we met several ships and we talked through a megaphone with the "Hibernia," en route from Liverpool to Baltimore, with many emigrants on board.

We have experienced nothing of importance on the whole trip, except that the sailors had a fight among themselves yesterday morning, and a few days ago two sailors refused to work and threatened the helmsman with a knife. It was four o'clock in the morning; they awakened the captain, who ordered the second helmsman to stand beside him with a loaded revolver, and to shoot every sailor who did not obey his orders. Then he asked for a report from the first helmsman, asked the two sailors what they had to say, but they did not answer. He called the one who was less guilty before him and gave him twelve lashes with a rope, so that he cried like a child. Then he called the other, who had drawn the knife and he received twenty-five lashes in the same manner and with full force. This fellow did not make the slightest move. Later on the captain told me that he had a right to shoot any sailor who lifted his arm against him, as this was the only way to keep law and order on the sea. It was absolutely necessary to give this punishment as a warning to the others, and the captain would have been forced to shoot if they had refused to come to him. All sailors know this law of the sea, therefore even the most brutal sailor obeys the orders of the captain.

August 29, 1852.

Most of our passengers went ashore in Portsmouth yesterday; we are in the Channel and we may arrive in London tomorrow if the wind remains favorable; if not, we may be a few more days on the water. We caught a big fish weighing 100 pounds and several smaller fish, also tiny ones which were hard to see with the naked eye. We are both feeling well, we are pleased and happy to think that we shall be on land soon. We see many ships and a pilot has been on board for three days, but owing to a complete calm we do not move at all. However the wind is favorable now.

We are eager to get your letter and we trust it will be good news.

Did you get a letter from Julius Winter or from Aunt Julia? I wrote letter No. 1 in Cincinnati, No. 2 in Buffalo, No. 3 in New York, No. 4, to Carl, from New York, and this short letter is No. 5, which will be mailed in London. Our trip has been excellent so far, and if it continues like this, it will always remain a pleasant and most interesting remembrance.

The ocean trip was so monotonous and lacking in all interest that I am really at a loss what to write about. I may have to buy a coat, pants, and vest either in London or in Paris, as my old suit won't do any more. I shall write from Paris how we are to continue with our trip. Up till now I have spent \$159.10, shirts, trunk, boots, cap, neckcloth and a loan of \$6.00 included. Just now a second pilot came aboard ship, and we may enter the Thames this afternoon, and then sixty miles to London. I threw my linen coat and shirt away; I have not worn my new shirts as yet, but I shall wear them in London and Paris. If we continue—as we still intend to do—from Paris via Strasbourgh, Basle, Schaffhausen, Constanx, St. Gallen, Rapperschwyl, Zürich, Lucern, Berne, Vevey, Lausanne, Geneva, and back to Basle, and from there the Rhine down-stream, then this will be a most interesting trip without doubt, and my letters will be more interesting than this letter. If you see nothing but sky and water, is it a wonder if your letter is somewhat watery, as I do not know much about the sky? At the start of the ocean trip I could not smoke the cigars which I bought from Henry Pauck, and I gave them away, as the English duty is more than they are worth; and now, I should like a smoke, but there are no cigars left. I have to flatter the captain and others, if I want to smoke a cigar now and then.

If our friends in Bünde do not wish to go to St. Louis with us, we may return by steamer, otherwise we intend to return via New Orleans. I shall close now, but I may add a few lines in London.

Farewell, you loved ones; please send us a complete report about everything, and every one of you should write a few lines, even if it is not much; it is very pleasing to read something from each of you.

Greetings, kisses, and a joining of hands,

From your
G. W.

LONDON, August 31, 1852.

Last night, Monday, August 30, we arrived here safely, and we made our quarters with Mr. Seyd, an old friend of *anno* 1825 or so, and a brother-in-law of Carl Nohl, of Lennep; our ship arrived to-

day, but we went ashore at Gravesend. Our things passed the custom-house and we had to pay nothing. We came here by boat and railroad. I am going to buy a coat, pants, vest, and a hat first of all, as we are told they are cheap in England. We intend to leave for Paris next Sunday.

I trust you will get this letter quickly, and I ask you once more to write a long letter to Lennep; I shall appreciate it if each and every one of you adds something.

Heartiest greetings to all of you,

From your
G. W.

Dear St. Louisans and Americans:

Our ship is being towed into London, and our fatty and I are feeling well and comfortable. Gustavus expressed his thoughts with difficulty, but I shall add a few lines, and you will get our epistle boiling-hot from the other side of the big soup. I am happy in anticipation of your letter and news, which we expect to get in Paris, either upon our arrival or before we leave.

Truly I find I made a great sacrifice in separating myself from my children, and an intense longing is beginning to assert itself. How often have I recalled when my baby—my darling little Bertha—rushed toward me; how often, when Fritz and Carl—both my pride—came home from school, happy and contented! Please tell me about them, and also what all of you are doing.

Do not assume that our trip is not most interesting, and that we are eager to rush home. Oh no; our trip has not only been most interesting so far, but it has been pleasant; even more pleasant for me than I had expected. I went on board ship with intermittent fever and every kind of medicine. But, oh wonder, the fever did not come back, and I was seasick only once; and only a few of our fellow travelers can say the same. It went better than I thought.

LONDON, August 31, 1852.

SEYD'S HOTEL, FINSBURY SQUARE,

Early in the morning.

I wrote the above lines on the ship when we were about ready to leave the ship, to go by railroad to London City. We were in Gravesend about thirty miles from London, and the ship was waiting for the flood tide in order to come in. We passed all difficulties, and we were well established in our hotel by half past eight.

We believe we shall like it here, and we may stay a few days more than originally planned. This letter will be mailed by steamer forthwith, and I have to finish, not because I do not know what else to write, but on account of lack of time. Time is money in London, and no mistake about it!

With most heartfelt greetings to all of you, I am

Your
F. E. SCHMIEDING.

Both letters received and forwarded by:

Mr. U. W. Bolenius, New York.

Cancellation stamp reads:

New York, September 13 (1852).

LETTER NO. 6.

LENNEP, September 20, 1852.

My Loved-Ones:

I mailed letter No. 5 in London on August 31, and my letter No. 4 from New York was about labels and addressed to Charles. There was almost a row in Lennep. I arrived at noon on Saturday, September 18, and I can safely say that there is hardly a family here who does not know that Gustavus Wulfing has arrived from America. Mr. Obricht, of Ronsdorf, called yesterday, and several others. But I have to begin with London.

We were four days in London, and we saw so much that it is simply impossible to write everything, as this would take a whole week. I can only say that we were on the go from early in the morning till late at night, as we were eager to leave this expensive city. It almost ceased to be a pleasure, you might call it hard work. We saw and inspected the Tower, storeroom of antiquities, the tunnel under the Thames, the Queen's Zoological Garden, the National Gallery, the Parliament Building, Greenwich Hospital, St. Paul's Cathedral, Buckingham Palace, Crystal Palace (being wrecked), many great monuments, St. James Park, Hyde Park, Cremon Garden, the Circus, fireworks, the great brewery, Westminster Abbey, etc. Our passports were honored everywhere and they were never examined.

On Friday, September 3, we left for Paris via Newhaven and Dieppe. We arrived in our hotel at midnight, and received Carl's letter of August 9 the next morning. His letter arrived in Paris the same day we did. We were really pleased about this, though we did not understand why nobody else wrote. Many thanks, dear Carl. Your balance is excellent; continue steadfastly my boy, and do not

overlook that it is your duty to give pleasure to your dear mother and Mathilde occasionally, not only in words but in deeds. Oh, my boy, your letter pleased me assuredly, and it is a great joy to read it again and again. Many thanks.

Now we have viewed Paris. This meant work, joy, and again work, and I was completely exhausted in the evening. As a result we have seen everything that can be seen in such a short time. Oh, what a city Paris is! We saw the Parks of Versailles, the Palace where Queen Victoria was supposed to reside during her visit in 1848, and where Napoleon lived; we saw his bed, crown, chairs, chess-board, the secretary in his study—I sat on his chair—and everything bursts with gold, also his carriages. We visited the palace of Madame Pompadour—three stories filled with portraits, theatre, church, living rooms, studies, reception halls, bathrooms, everything in the same palace. All the chairs were inlaid with gold and ivory, a round table with a table-board of one piece was eight feet in diameter. We saw fountains, lakes, ponds, walks, the animal park, hedges three feet deep and ten feet high, halls five hundred feet long, paintings, one hundred and fifty feet in length, yew trees, the labyrinth, the Bois de Boulogne, St. Cloud Palais Royal, Champs-Élysées, the House of Deputies, and many boulevards. In addition portraits in life size of Washington, Webster, Calhoun, Clay, Napoleon's "Farewell from his Guards," his tomb in the Dome des Invalides, Hôtel de Ville, "City Hall," the morgue, Pantheon, Tuileries, palaces, churches.

On Wednesday evening, September 8, we asked for the hotel bill and we received the letter from Mother and the others at the same time. Our joy was great, great indeed. Next morning we left for Strasbourgh to see the cathedral with the famous clock and the two mummies, which are said to be four hundred years old. On the way I drank a glass of champagne for five sous. We passed through the village where Joan of Arc was born, we saw the Ardennes, the Black Forest, and we entered Germany at Kehl in Baden. We visited Baden-Baden and the nearby village where Jacob Astor was born, who donated one hundred thousand dollars for the improvement of this village. We went to Heidelberg, ascended on donkey a mountain which is 1700 feet higher than the Neckar River, or 2500 feet above sea level. Halfway up we sent the donkeys back and climbed the rest of the way ourselves. From a tower 84 feet high—it was a beautiful morning—we saw the cities of Worms, Speyer, Mannheim, Strasbourgh, twelve windings of the Neckar, and the Rhine, also the Odenwald Mountains, the house where Luther stayed

on his trip to Worms, the Jura Mountains, the Vosges Mountains, the Hunsrück Mountains, the Swabian Alps, the Black Forest, the Taunus Mountains, with the Feldberg—of course you look through a telescope. One hundred and sixty noteworthy objects: cities, villages, castles, burghs, mountains, etc. We saw the famous Heidelberg Castle and the Heidelberg *Fass*. This is a cask thirty-two feet long with a diameter of twenty-two feet; it was built in 1751 and contains the equivalent of two millions eight hundred thirty-two thousand wine-quart bottles. On September 11 we visited the Fair in Frankfort on the Main. We decided in Strasbourgh not to go to Switzerland, as it was too cold. In Frankfort we saw the Fair, the Stock Exchange, and the famous St. Paul's Church. We passed through Karlsruhe and Rastatt on our way to Frankfort. From Frankfort we went to Wiesbaden on a Sunday afternoon, and the next day to Mayence, thence to Bonn. The weather was not favorable, but the country is beyond description. I called on Cousin Johannes Oellermann, who has aged considerably. He thought I had not changed much except for being stouter. On Tuesday morning we went to Cologne. Here we heard from Messrs. Engel & Oellermann that Springmann has no store and that he lives very modestly in a few rooms. We bought two complete suits each, good and cheap, and we stayed in Cologne until they were made to order. We called on Springmann and had dinner with him twice; he lives economically, and he was extremely kind. He had given up the idea of going to America, as life means nothing to him without wine taverns. With reference to the money I told him that I had to wait for a letter from Gildehaus and that it might be better to give him a draft, three days on sight, on Gildehaus & Witte.

When on our way from Wiesbaden to Mayence we met Mr. Schütze, of St. Louis, who is a partner of Eggers, on the Rhine bridge. Fritz went with him to a theater, but I stayed in the hotel, as I had met an old acquaintance from Gummersbach. Fritz left Cologne on Friday morning, September 17, per railroad to Herford. I have just received a letter from him stating that he found Father in excellent health and everybody feeling well.

Julius Winter and his wife left four weeks ago. Father, Winter, and two youngsters were calling for him at the post-house, five doors from Winter's. He writes further that the Winters have a room with two beds for him and me, and that he had not gone out as yet, as he needs a rest to recover from our long trip. I am going to join him in about a week. Fritz arrived in Bünde on the same date on which we went to sea seventeen years ago.

I left Cologne by mail coach on Saturday morning, and Friedrich Wüsthoff met me at the post-house; I had written two days before that I intended to arrive in Lennep on Saturday afternoon. Julia is in good health, but she has aged considerably. Our cousins are enjoying good health too: Lenchen is well preserved in spite of her sixty years, Dorchen is just as well or possibly better, Hannchen is fairly well but not so well as her sisters. First of all I removed my beard. The joy of seeing each other is beyond description. They tell me I am well preserved and that I resemble the late Friedrich Springmann. This is very flattering, and I am sure that the trip will be extremely beneficial. I am better on my feet than formerly and I am feeling excellent; these recollections have the best influence on me. I called yesterday morning on old lady Oellermann, who celebrated her eighty-second birthday. She gave me a most hearty welcome kiss, the way youngsters kiss when they are twenty or twenty-one years old.

All Lennep is in a state of excitement. Since starting this letter Mrs. Burcher, Cousin Kirberg, and Springmann and children have called to see their Gustavus from America. I spent yesterday with our cousins—such cordiality, such joy—as a matter of fact I have seven invitations and I really have to dispose of my time well to call on the nearest relatives first, before going to Bünde. In spite of the excitement, all must wait until I finish this letter, as I wish to write to you, my loved ones, first of all.

I had the best of intentions to continue writing, but Cousin Holterhoff, of Altenberg, called, and it would not be right to let this old friend sit all by himself; but I trust I can finish now. Carl writes: "I made a bargain about that lot with G. I think I can employ all my capital in business." I suppose you meant to write: "I did not make, etc." I did not inquire if Mother made a bargain with G., but I wanted to know if Carl made a bargain with G. Carl may write in his next letter what became of the sabres. I believe it is best not to send any newspapers, as German newspapers may not be forwarded. I like it very well in Germany so far, particularly the railroads and living conditions in general, also the cordiality in family life; it is cold here in Lennep, and I had to ask Julia to build a fire. I am wearing a heavy suit and still I feel cold at times.

Heartfelt thanks to all of you, Mother, Mathilde, Fritz, Witte, and Gildehaus, for your kind letter; it gave me great pleasure to get a few lines from each of you. I hope to get another letter soon. I did not have time to check up my money, but I think that I spent about \$250.00 to get to Lennep—\$200.00 for traveling expenses and

about \$50.00 for clothing. In clothing I purchased two coats, two pairs of trousers, a satin and a woolen vest, a pair of boots in America and a pair here, a hat, six pairs of socks, six shirts in New York, and a tie.

I have to buy gloves and I cannot use my cotton umbrella. I do not intend to settle up with Springmann until I have a report from Gildehaus. I presume he has received so far \$15.00 from me and \$25.00 from Gildehaus, a total of \$40.00, and I may have to give him a draft of \$166.00 on Gildehaus and Witte; at any rate I feel that I should not give him more than \$150.00 unless I get a report from Gildehaus.

Please do not feel hurt that I have not written before, but time was too valuable in the expensive hotels in London, Paris, Heidelberg, Cologne, etc.; besides we were too tired in the evenings. Mrs. Moll, of Lüttringhausen, is calling; please be patient. Please transmit heartfelt greetings to her children. I had to promise to call on her. She will think it over, if she ought to emigrate or not; I cannot advise her about this as I know nothing about her circumstances. My dear Christelchen, I am pleased to see that you intend to go to Quincy; be sure to do it. Hearty greetings to August and the children. The Bohmers are on a trip, and I shall keep the letters until they return.

How often have I wished that Mother were with us to see all the magnificent places in London and Paris! Of course, we should have to travel differently, as Mother never would have been able to stand the way we traveled. How fortunate that we received your letters just before we left Paris! We feel deeply sorry for Dr. Berghaus. Please mention in your next letter the general condition in regard to the cholera. Louis Moll is sending a second invitation just now, asking me to spend the evening with him; I cannot do it, as I must finish this letter first.

Oh, how frightened you must have been when my darling Tixchen became sick so suddenly. Please take good care of yourselves, so that I may find all of you in good health upon my return. I heard in Mayence that the father of the brewer Busch passed away and that Busch will inherit a considerable fortune. If I recollect correctly, he has a pretty daughter, and this may be something for our Fritchen Witte. I cannot tell much about Bünde as yet, except that Fritz writes all of them are in good health and Father is in excellent condition. Julia liked Gildehaus' mother and sister very well. She did not see much of the others, and I believe she was too much of an old maid for the old gentleman; however, I think that he will not

take French leave when I call on him. Julia wrote you two letters, one on July 13 and another one on September 6. Greetings to Fritzchen Meister and other friends; we are pleased to hear that love finally conquered him. Many kisses to our darling Mariechen; Julia is extremely proud of being her godmother. Greetings to Bertha and Catherine, etc. Fritzchen did well and he should write soon again. You have no idea how pleasing it is for me to have a few lines from each of you.

I cannot tell whether the Republicans won in Bünde; Fritz mentioned nothing about this, and I have not received any other letters or papers so far. Springmann, in Cologne, may expect a draft for \$100.00 only, and he may leave the balance for the support of August, if this should become necessary. He told me he had a letter from August informing him that he intended to go to New Orleans within a few days. August, his father, and the other son, and even the third son, fourteen years of age, are so easy-going, etc., that it is best to have very little to do with them.

I am going to write my next letter from Osnabrück; I intend to leave in eight days for Bünde, Osnabrück, and Hartenfeld. I would not be too exact with Hausgen; just pay him \$25.00 and you will find that he is highly pleased with this settlement, and he will be convinced that you treated him fairly. Your collections of bad debts are d—d slow; hurrah for Benton and Bornstein. Our hotel keeper in Strasbourgh is after the latter, as he borrowed five hundred francs from him and skipped. There were no newspapers for us in Paris. Papers must be fully post-paid, otherwise they will not be forwarded. Many thanks to friend Witte. Is your little parrot still living? Do not only talk about the theatre, but take the ladies to the theatre. What I said about Miss Busch is not a joke; I actually mean it, and she is really a gold angel. The six dollars that I loaned in New York are paid back.

Besides seeing our cousins I called on the following relatives and friends: Old lady Oellermann, Cousin Spicker, and old lady Springmann, all of whom tell me I am well preserved. When inquiring about others, I found that many, very many, have passed away, or disappeared. People leave by the trainloads, even entire communities have emigrated from these parts of the country. As far as business is concerned, I prefer America, but when it comes to living on my interest I prefer to be here; that is, as far as I can judge now. It is possible that I have formed my opinion too hastily; however, I have not noticed any real poverty among the people. I may have occasion to study conditions more thoroughly as time passes on. It is getting

dark and I have to finish. Cousin Daniel Oellermann is calling to find out if it is convenient for the cousin from America to spend the evening with him.

Under these conditions you will have to excuse me for finishing now without reading the letter over, but I shall take time to send you a thousand, indeed many thousands of greetings. Please keep me in kind memory and write soon to your

G.

I called on mayor Bau of Mulheim on the Rhine and I transmitted greetings from Tante Speck. Thanks! Same to her! Likewise on the Schnitzlers, who were extremely friendly. Cousin Kirberg sends greetings to Tante Speck, and Madame Moll to her children. She is getting along all right, that is, she is feeling fairly well. All the merchants with whom we talked seem to be well satisfied with their king, and what is more, all seem to be afraid of anything that may lead to a change. I can well understand this, as everyone who possesses anything prefers to let things remain as they are. Everybody talks frankly and more outspokenly than I expected, and many read the *Kladderadatsch*,¹ which I consider very good. I subscribed to it for one year. How is our Fuchs?² How is Carambo? If the weather remains favorable for two more weeks they will have a good wine year. The attendance at the Fair in Frankfort was not so good. Did Dillon pay? I shall write again as soon as I hear from you.

Many heartfelt greetings, also from Julia and our dear cousins, from your

G. W.

OSNABRÜCK, October 8, 1852.

Dear Mother and Children:

On the 5th inst. I wrote to Julius Winter in Louisville asking him to send my letter to you without delay; this letter answered your kind letter of August 21 to Lennep almost completely. I had a fine time in Lennep; everybody was eager to make my stay as pleasant as possible, and everyone tried to outdo the other. Friends and strangers were calling on me continuously to inquire about relatives. I went to Lüttringhausen, but no place else except Altenberg. I hired a carriage on Sunday, September 26 for 4 *Taler*, 20 *Silbergroschen* and took Julia, Lenchen, and Hannchen to Altenberg; we returned in

¹ A political comic paper.

² Their sorrel horse.

the evening. At the same time I called on the Beckers in Strasserhoff; he is going to lose his job as postmaster within a short time.

I spent an evening with Carl Nohl, and after assuring each other that our conversation was strictly confidential, we told each other what we knew about Adolph. He was not at all surprised; on the contrary, he told me things which were even worse than I thought. If Adolph had been a little more careful, he could have ruined his brother completely; he was a perfect scoundrel. More about this verbally.

I had a heart to heart talk with Julia with reference to my creed; she was somewhat startled and declared herself unable to argue about it, but she said she preferred a frank acknowledgement to hypocrisy, and that she loved me just as well as if we were of the same faith. She was highly pleased that Mathilde and Mother insisted on christening the baby and that she is her godmother; she considers it her duty to pray for the child's welfare in body and soul every day. It is well that we came to an agreement and do not talk about it any more.

There are quite a few changes in Lennep; many of my old friends have passed away, or moved from here, some are in fairly good circumstances, and a few are well to do. Wm. Grüderich owns a copal-varnish factory and he wishes to know if there is an opportunity to sell this line in America. D'Oench, Schutze and Eggers, or Voigt and Bunding may be able to give you this information. Please inquire from these three firms, find out as much as you can and do not fail to ask about the import duty; write to Lennep as soon as possible. If you wish to handle such goods, I could place an order for any of the above mentioned firms, if you do not wish to handle this item yourself.

Julia is going to move on May 1, but she intends to stay in Lennep; she has enough to live economically and free from worries. She paid all obligations and she has an income of 140 *Taler*. This income will increase if she sells the *Gartenfeld*. I do not know if she wishes to sell now and what she intends to do in regard to her testament, but she intends to talk this matter over with me and she will be guided by my advice. I have not seen von Berg as yet, but I shall call on him as soon as I get back to Lennep. Knemeyer insisted that I should stay, but I left Lennep on the 28th for Bielefeld.

I called on Heinrich Potthoff, Staudecker, Dreibholz, Bermann, Stinz, Wessel, and Speyer. The last was not at home, and I may have to call again when I come back, as I wish to call on *all* the good friends of our dear mother. The railroads have brought consider-

able changes and it is almost impossible to recognize many places. The people of Bielefeld are in character the same as seventeen years ago. I met Ernest Neuer at the station in Bielefeld, but I talked to him only five minutes; he intends to return to St. Louis in two weeks and he promised to call on you.

We found everybody well in Bünde; the family council decided that the Winters and Father will go to America and that Carl, in Eilson, will realize the dream of his life. Winter, Fritz, and I went to Minden; we found that Pundt is the right type for America, and he and Augusta have made up their minds to join us. Augusta is real nice, pleasant, and an excellent housewife, same as my beloved Tixchen, and she is an expectant mother. Pundt plays the piano well and I am confident that he will make good headway in America. We returned to Bünde the next day and met Osterwald, of St. Louis. We talked the whole matter over, and after due consideration of all the pros and cons, it was definitely decided that the Winters and Father remain in Germany until Julius is in a position to take care of the old folk. This makes it uncertain whether Pundt will go along or not. Gretchen is a nice young lady, tall and healthy, and she would like to go to America, but she prefers to live with Aunt Christiane or Mathilde, and not with Julius. She hereby asks whether you would like to have her, if you have room for her, and what you think about the idea. Her mind is not made up as yet, but she is willing to go with us if she is welcome.

The Winters are getting along all right, they have a nice income and they live without worries; however, they have had great expense on account of sending three boys to America and also Augusta's dowry of about 600 *Taler*. This has reduced their surplus to such a degree that they have to economize very, very, very much to make both ends meet. I heard many nice things about Julius' wife; she has a fortune of her own of 1700 *Taler*, of which she has received 500 *Taler*, and the balance of 1200 *Taler* is to be paid when she is twenty-four years old. She is well read and well versed in feminine work, probably like Gretchen. She wrote a personal letter to the king which was promptly answered by the ministry. Though the answer was in the negative, it still remains an interesting experience. I am somewhat old fashioned and I believe that a young wife should know something about the kitchen. I prefer to see her at a cradle in preference to writing letters to royalty. They tell me she has a wonderful imagination—and this reminds me of Tante Weihrothe.

Father sold all his real estate at a good price last year and he invested his money in farm loans at the rate of 4 per cent. He gave

notice for all of his investments and he intends to turn over to each child the same amount he gave August, viz. 1500 *Taler*; consequently, we are going to get 470 Prussian *Taler* some time next summer, for which we have to pay no interest. After each child has received 1500 *Taler*, and after deducting the 500 *Taler* promised to Carl, and the 50 *Taler* given to Carl when he burned out, also the 100 *Taler* given to August when he departed for America, father will have 3750 *Taler* left besides his furniture. This amount he intends to divide equally between his children. Each child will get an additional 750 *Taler* at the rate of 6 per cent. This means that each child must pay father 45 *Taler* per annum, and father will have an income of 225 *Taler* per year, which is more than he needs; Carl will take care of whatever balance may be left. This arrangement is fair to all concerned, and each child has the advantage of getting the inheritance now instead of later on. The Winters and Carl intend to invest their money through Fritz, who promised to pay them 6 per cent interest.

On Wednesday, October 8, Minchen, Fritz, and I went to Lübeck, and Minchen continued by stage to Minden, as she had received word from Pundt that Augusta had given birth to a healthy baby girl. Fritz and I traveled by stage to Osnabrück, where we found all the members of the Dieckriede family in the best of health. These are excellent people; the mother is the soul of the family and the children, grown or little, resemble Bernard. In spite of rain and cold we enjoyed a grand time; we were received well and we liked it well; there is no telling how long we are going to stay. It has been raining for the past two weeks. We called on Tante Witte Senior yesterday and we had coffee with her. Her daughter Lina may have arrived in St. Louis by this time, but we had the pleasure of meeting two other daughters, Sophia and Henrietta. Tante Witte is an excellent hostess, she is fifty-five years old but she looks like forty; she is vigorous and lives in good circumstances. I shall tell you more verbally.

When leaving I put the picture of Fr. in my pocket and we went to see Effring. He was in his store, and after having bought cigars, I told him that I had greetings for him from a man whose picture I had in my pocket. I showed him the picture, he looked at it, but failed to recognize it and he asked me for the name of the man. I refused to tell him the name but I told him, if he failed to recognize the picture, I had orders to show it to his wife, as I had to transmit greetings for her too. He called: "Settchen!" and Settchen made her appearance. She is a cute little wife with a most interesting expression in her face. She looked at the picture and I watched her closely.

She blushed and then turned pale, and finally admitted that she did not know the man, and I was asked to tell his name. When I refused to do so, she looked at the picture once more, changed color again and said: "This picture was not made in Germany," and I admitted the correctness of this statement.

She: "The picture is from America."

I: "Correct."

She: "It is Fritz Witte."

I: "Correct."

She: "My goodness, how he looks—"

I: "Just like the picture only more cheerful."

She: "Judging from the picture he is doing well."

I: "He is a handsome, sedate, tall, healthy, and broad-shouldered young man."

She: "My goodness, I cannot stop looking at him."

He: "If Fritz Witte had not gone to America, I believe you would not have married me."

She: "I suppose that is correct."

He: "I courted you before he did."

She: "Yes, but—"

He: "Well you love me just the same; at least you tell me so."

She: "That's right, and I am well pleased."

After looking at the picture long enough—I could see that she would have kissed it, if she had dared to do it—Settchen proceeded to wrap it in paper. I tried to take it away with the remark: "Never mind, Madame Effring, it is not necessary." She looked at me in surprise and asked: "The picture is for me, is it not?" I answered: "If I had the right to dispose of it, yes, but it belongs to Madame Witte and I have to return it." As it was raining heavily, I asked if I could stay until the rain ceased; besides, I was somewhat curious to see her home. We talked about America, and they invited me to spend an afternoon with them. When I left she repeated the invitation, and I promised to call again, and I intend to keep my promise. Fritz and I called on Herman Witte. He has an excellent wife, and we enjoyed a nice conversation. They invited us for dinner today and to spend the afternoon with them. As it is half past eleven now, I must stop writing, as it is time to leave. We intend to go to the theatre tonight.¹

I should have written to Witte separately, but I thought of it too late; therefore, it may be better not to send this letter to Quincy.

¹ At this point a part of the original letter which refers to the Witte family is missing.

There is no harm in it, but it is better so. You, my darling Mother, may tell me in your next letter how you found everything in Quincy. I hope to be able to finish this letter tomorrow and then we must make our calls on Flohr, Springmann, Thorner, Lappe, etc. We like it here but we prefer St. Louis over all the cities in Germany.

. . . .² finishes my report to you. With reference to yourself I mentioned but the truth on every occasion with one exception. I told your brother that you were worth about \$1500.00, but I told Settchen you were worth \$10,000.00. We must have some fun; however, I must tell you that Settchen is not pretty any more. Your mother is getting along well and Henrietta enters new employment within a few days.

I have already mentioned in my previous letter of October 5 from Bünde that I had mailed a draft for \$100.00, three days on sight, on Gildehaus & Witte, to Friedrich Springmann and I enclosed a copy of this draft; this will enable you to compare the original with the duplicate. Keep the balance of his credit until Springmann has agreed to pay the obligations of his son. We are going to call on the widow Meyer, in Iburg, and we may go to Hartenfelde in about a week. Then we shall return to Bünde, where Fritz will make his headquarters. I expect to be in Lennep most of the time, as I feel more at home in Lennep and as I know the merchants better. Mother Dieckriede is an excellent lady. Father Dieckriede is a wonderful gentleman and he is extremely attentive; he bought two long pipes for us. Mother Dieckriede liked the dress well, and Augusta and Hermine were highly pleased with the silk aprons and the silk ribbons; little Emma liked her Indian bead bag. Augusta and Hermine liked their bags too, and each and every one is sending thanks and hearty greetings.

First of all, hearty greetings to my dearly beloved Christelchen, my one and only one.

BÜNDE, October 25, 1852.

My Loved Ones, All of You:

My letters which are not yet acknowledged were dated as follows: Lennep, September 20; Bünde, October 5; and Osnabrück, October 8. My last two letters were my answer to yours of August 23 to Lennep, which I received on September 22, after mine of the 20th was mailed.

² The part that is missing here apparently also referred to the Witte family.

We returned from Osnabrück yesterday, and I received your kind letter of September 20, which Julia forwarded to Bünde promptly. Many thanks for your complete report. My darling Christelchen wrote August 16 instead of September 16, but I do not call this oversight carelessness and I do not take it ill, as I know that you are my darling even if you write the wrong date. I take this occasion to give you, my dear Christelchen, a kiss and extra hearty greetings, just for you alone, and I must ask you not to share this with the others, not even with Mathilde and Mariechen; just keep these for yourself.

As I have already answered your last letter, I do not wish to write more about it, and I am going to write about our experiences. We stayed two weeks in Osnabrück and we had a wonderful time. Old man Dieckriede is a splendid gentleman, just the type I like and I mean just what I say; he likes to joke and he is gay and jolly. He does not flatter and he is not an interpreter of the Bible. He likes to tell a joke and he is always ready to play a trick if he gets a chance. Mother Dieckriede is an excellent lady who loves her children dearly and Henry in particular; she told us much about him. As she was busy during the day, we could talk to her only in the evening. I liked the old ones well and also the two girls, Augusta and Hermine. The latter is tall and pretty and she made a wonderful impression on me. I cannot tell much about Wilhelm and Hermann as Wilhelm is working all day and Hermann is in school. Little Emma is a droll little girl and from all indications she will become a beauty. They talked much about the late Johanna; they told me she was not only very, very pretty, but she had a wonderful disposition.

As I said before, we had a wonderful time in Osnabrück and we may visit them again next spring; everybody was eager to make our visit as pleasant as possible. We had dinner with Hermann Witte, Hermann Springmann, Carl Springmann, and old man Wyman; supper with Chr. Dieckriede and Flohr. We went with Flohr to the *Musenburg am Herrenteigs Tor* and with Thorner to the *Schützenhof*. Dieckriede, Thorner, and Schütze took us to many other outing places, forty-five of which are located around Osnabrück. We met young man Schütze again whom we had met at Mayence. We called on old man Lappe and we went with Father Dieckriede to Madame Keller's. Flohr took us to his club and Wyman drove us to the *Eisenhammer*, which is owned by a Mr. Meyer. We paid "coffee visits" to both Springmanns, Herman Witte, Mother Witte, Dreinhoffer, and several others; morning visits to Mrs. Bohmer, Wippen, Ortland, Settchen Effring, André brothers,

G. Witte, the widow Simsen née Springmann, saddler Schrader, Wm. Essens, Dreinhoffer's on the *Grossen Strasse*.

Fritz called on Meiners and met Wm. Flohr's sister. Old Uncle Meyer invited us to call on him, as he was too feeble to call on us. There is no doubt in my mind that he will not survive this winter, and Fritz Witte will do well to give some one his power of attorney, perhaps to his brother—I do not know what to say about this—it may be better to somebody who is not interested. I can only confirm what I said in my last letter: Hermann is a good business man and he will succeed, particularly when he gets his inheritance. We advised him not to emigrate.

Before continuing this letter, once more greetings and kisses to my darling, my angel, my everything, my one and only Christelchen. My goodness, I have not seen a pretty girl since we left Paris, as I always looked in a different direction when fate allowed me to meet a beauty with raven-black eyes, and the angel from Louisville is too far from here.

October 26, 1852.

Good morning, dear Mother, did you sleep well? Give me a kiss, my darling! Thank you!

Father Dieckriede doubts whether he can buy the *Tannenkamp* from Dreinhoffer at a fair price, and has given up the idea. Dreinhoffer spent so much money on his old house and neglected his business to such an extent that he is having a hard struggle at present. Precentor Dreinhaber paid me 19 ggr. (*gute Groschen*) which he lost in a solo game. Hermann Witte has a pretty wife, and healthy and sturdy children. Dr. Reinhold is so feeble that we could not see him. Mrs. Elise Groneweg has aged considerably, but she was extremely attentive and she is a wonderful mother. We intended to go to Iburg, but we heard that Mrs. Meyer is visiting the Prinz family in Osnabrück and we called there. Mrs. Meyer has not changed much; her two oldest daughters are grown and they are fine young ladies. Little Julia is ten years old; I would not have recognized any of the girls.

We had a long, foolish conversation with André about cigars, but there is nothing to be done about it. Each New Year's Day André sends an invoice for cigars to Father Dieckriede which amounts to eight *Taler*, including interest. Father Dieckriede writes on the bill that he does not intend to pay and returns it to André. Dieckriede did not allow us to compensate him, so we agreed to pay André the original charge of five *Taler*, provided that André mentions

the cigar transaction. However André said nothing and neither did we.

We did not spend much time at Thorner's, as we had too many other visits on our program, and we did not find time to call on them a second time. We went to the theatre three times and the performances were good. We went to Hartenfelde last Thursday in Thorner's one-horse vehicle, and we took Hermine with us. We called on Uncle Wulfin and Cousin Schmieding; both were highly pleased to see us. We called Mr. Meyer Beling "Papa Meyer." "Papa Meyer" is three inches taller than I am, is broad-shouldered, and weighs about fifty pounds more than I do. Carl Meyer resembles his father in appearance, manners, and character. Mother Meyer is feeling fairly well; she was pleased to see us and she is friendly and cordial. Their daughter is pretty but small, friendly but bashful; she should leave home for at least one year and learn something about the ways of the world.

On Friday we called on precentor Witte in Wedern and we had supper with them; we agreed to take their second son, Fritz, with us. You can hardly imagine how eagerly Tante Witte—and many others—inquire about their relatives and friends in America. This does not annoy us in any way, as it is a great pleasure to give such information when you can read in their eyes that they are really interested. Of course everybody in Osnabrück, Wedern, Hartenfelde, Bünde, Lennep, etc. is sending hearty greetings to you, dear Mother. I take this occasion to embrace you most heartily, I give you a kiss, and I call you my darling Christelchen; and I am proud that you are so pleased with me. Now a kiss for Mathilde and Mariechen too—you had yours first; the others must wait, as you come first.

On Saturday we returned to Bünde, where I received your kind letter of September 20, which I am going to answer now.

My dearly beloved Christelchen:

The following is exclusively for you, and I am asking the others not to read this unless they have your consent. Greetings and kisses, and I wish to assure you that my thoughts are with you in every word. You know that I love you, even if I do not mention this in every sentence. I cannot describe how much I long for you; my letter would cost at least three times as much postage if I could enclose all my kisses and greetings. My thoughts are with you every hour of the day; please be patient, as I will make up for this next spring, and you will have no cause to complain.

On October 20, when on our way from Minden to Herford, we

had a most severe storm, which unrooted many trees and caused chimneys to fall. We hear that several ships with emigrants went down. Some of those who were saved returned to Osnabrück, but they lost everything and have no means whatsoever left. We are pretty busy paying visits. Fritz intends to stay here during the winter and I shall return to Lennep in about a week via Enger (Osterwald),¹ Schildesche (Portner), Bielefeld (all old friends), Münster (Gierse). Later on I intend to go to Remscheid, Gummersbach, Cologne, Bonn, Lüttringhausen, Barmen, Elberfeld, Düsseldorf, and Crefeld. I shall arrange this trip according to weather conditions. Fritz will go to Ronsdorf, and he intends to join me in January. In February we shall go once more to Osnabrück and then to Bremen, as we intend to leave Bremen by steamer some time between March 1 and 15. This is a long way off, but we are here now, and it is impossible to return earlier, as navigation ceases; besides, we have to pay many more visits. Please be patient, my darling, and believe me that I long for you too. I do not wish to complain, but we simply have to be patient.

Oh, how pleased we were to see that all of you are in good health, particularly you, my dear Mother, and we are glad that friend Witte is well again!

We hear all kinds of bad news about Dr. Berkhaus. They tell us he did not pass his examinations and he is a great hypocrite, and his reputation is not so good. So be careful and do not waste too much sympathy on him on account of his misfortune. I enclose a letter for Catherine; please read it and seal the letter before giving it to her. I am glad to hear that you enjoyed your trip to Quincy. We feel the same as you, as we know that there is only one St. Louis.

It is my most ardent wish to be again with you, my dear. Gretchen Winter is traveling with us and she prefers to be with either you or Mathilde. When you write to Quincy, please give them my regards, and tell Marie that her nice letter pleased me much; I am glad that she paid you a visit in St. Louis. The news about Huckstadt is sad, very sad indeed, and it affected us deeply. This is the second since we left. A Bremen paper published an article in all earnestness about A. & B.'s speculation in cats; I am going to bring this paper along. I am glad to hear about Springmann's success. I shall report this to Cologne and also to Osnabrück, as I know they will be pleased to hear this.

I cannot refrain from adding greetings and a kiss for my darling

¹ I. e., where I shall see Osterwald.

Tixchen and my dear grandchild, of course two kisses for you. The others—No, they must wait for their turn—and then you will get two more.

Julia is urging me to return soon, and she wishes me to extend greetings to all of you, especially to the gentle, lovely, and dearest Christiane, to Mathilde, the happy mother, and to Mariechen, her beloved godchild.

I am finishing this letter now, but first I am going to give you another kiss, and in case you have failed to comprehend, I wish to add that you are my dearest Christelchen, and that I shall never cease to be your most faithful

GUSTAVUS.

My darling Tilla:

Your kind letter pleased me immensely, and I wish to thank you with all my heart. You cannot imagine how pleasing it is to get good news from you. I am curious to know what arrangements you made in regard to Gretchen; it is natural that she should prefer to be with you. Think this matter over most carefully and write me your decision frankly, but word your letter so that I can read it to the Winters. Write everything you do not wish me to read to them on a separate sheet.

A thousand hearty greetings to all of you, especially to your dear mother, from your loving

FATHER.

Dear C. R. H. G.:

The draft for \$100.00, dated September 23, three days on sight, drawn on Gildehaus & Witte in favor of Fr. Springmann, may have been presented by the time you read this letter. I cannot tell yet if you should pay the obligation, but I expect to write more about this as soon as I hear from Cologne. Your business report is most interesting and pleasing; many thanks. As I wrote you before, Hermann Witte was very frank; he and his mother are getting along nicely. The mother pays cash for everything, and I am told that she has 250 *Taler* outstanding. Since Lina is young and pretty, she should get married as soon as possible. Why don't Carl and Fritz write? How is Fritz? He should stay at Benzen's until I return, and then we shall make other arrangements. We had a wonderful time in Osnabrück and we intend to go there once more. If you wish me to take up anything, just write me about it to Lennep upon receipt of this letter. I should not like to live in Osnabrück, I prefer St. Louis over any

other city. Your report about Springmann pleased me very much; continue to keep an eye on him, as this is the wish of his relatives in Osnabrück. Did he acknowledge the correctness of the bills for \$42.00, \$18.00, and \$4.00?

Hearty greetings to our dear Mother, to Mathilde, Mariechen, and all the others. Once more greetings to Mother, yourself, and all the others from your

G.

Dear Friend Witte:

I take it that it is your wish to hear nothing but the naked truth and that you will take nothing ill. I wrote you as completely as possible. I expect to hear from you and to get your opinion about the whole matter. If there is anything I can do, just write me about it. I think it best that the whole family remain here; at any rate I can see no reason why you should pay the fare. I believe I have written enough about the subject, and can do nothing more except wait until I hear from you.

Please transmit greetings to Tante Wulfing and accept hearty greetings from your friend.

W.

Dear Fritz:

Why don't you write more often? I have told you that I enjoy getting a few lines from you and I think this should be reason enough for you to sit down on a Sunday afternoon and write something. Do not neglect this and please stay with Benzen's until next spring, as I expect to get a good report about you. Take good care of your health and remember your father once in a while.

Hearty greetings from your father to you and greetings and kisses to your dear mother.

Dear Mother:

You mentioned that Tante Speck moved without giving a reason. What does this mean? I don't understand this. Please give me an explanation.

Father, Minchen, and Gretchen wish to enclose a letter, and I wish to write to Carl. Father is going to have himself daguerreotyped and he will give me a picture for you.

I believe I wrote greetings to Quincy, but not yet to Tante Speck, Clages, Agathe, Marie, Bertha, etc.; I trust that I have forgotten nobody; if so, I should feel badly about it. This closely written

letter represents much work, and if I have overlooked some one, all this work would have been in vain.

In closing I shall ask you to consider the whole letter as written to you, and I hope to get nothing but good news from you soon.

Greetings to all of you and to all our relatives and friends from your

G.

October 27, 1852.

Dearly beloved Mother:

This letter will be mailed today. Father wrote nothing but nonsense. Father and the Winters will stay here. Father became sentimental while writing and the wish to see you got the better of him. He imagines he can travel either with the Winters or all by himself. There is hardly a chance that he will ever take the trip.

Carl called for his Annachen. She is tall and fairly good looking, but her mouth is big and always open. She does not talk much, is neither fast nor lively, and she remembers hardly anything about America. Her answers are seldom more than "yes" or "no," and she appears to be really ignorant. When a child she was pretty lively and smart, and her whole peasant-like and somewhat stupid attitude is due to a strict education. Her keep in Eilsen cost nothing and this was reason enough for Carl to let her stay, and she is going to remain there until some farmer boy marries her.

I must close now, and I use this space to send greetings to all my loved ones, and as many greetings and kisses to you, my dear Christiane, as there are stars in heaven!

And now just as many extra greetings as there are grains of sand in the ocean, from your

GUSTAVUS.

Here is a little space for more hearty greetings for you, dear Mother, but no more space for the others.

LENNEP, November 14-16, 1852.

*My dearly beloved ones, all of you,
particularly my lovely Christelchen—*

My most beloved Christinchen:

Last night I received your kind letter of October 16-20, and I am highly pleased to see that all of you loved ones are in good health, that friend Witte is now our cousin Witte, and that our little Mariechen is getting along so nicely, besides other good news. At the same

time I feel deeply sorry on account of your complaint because I failed to write a few extra fond words especially for you.

Don't you know yet that I love you sincerely and do you doubt this unless I write a few extra fond words and assure you solemnly and assure you in each sentence of my most sincere affection and love for you? Please be sensible, my dear Mother, do not make your heart heavy; the mere thought that I could ever forget you is a transgression toward yourself and me.

You know that I love you dearly and more than I can express in words, and in spite of this fact, you expect me to fill at least one page of each letter with "my dearly beloved, my best, my only, most adored, dearest Christelchen"! When I assure you upon oath that I love you just as much as ever before, or, if that were possible, more than ever in our lives, will this satisfy you?

Oh, my darling, I understand your feelings, your reproach is not so much lack of confidence in me and my unchangeable and faithful love for you; it is the result of your great longing for your Gustavus. Be patient, my dear, the time for our return is approaching fast, and then only death can separate us for a short time.

If it were not nonsense, I should fill this entire page with words and tokens of affection and fondness, with greetings and kisses, but doing this it would not enable me to think more often of you and to love you more, as this is utterly impossible, even if the sky were paper, the sun an ink-well, and each star a pen-point, and I were writing to all eternity!

Most heartfelt greetings and kisses to you, my darling, from your faithful

GUSTAVUS.

My last letters, which are not yet acknowledged, are as follows: Bünde, October 5; Osnabrück, October 8; and Bünde, October 26. Witte's engagement announcement and the letter of October 9 from Gildehaus, which you mentioned in your last letter, have not arrived as yet, but I received a letter from my beloved Carl, and a copy of August's letter of October 5 to Father in Bünde with the engagement announcement and other news. Fritz may be in Osnabrück, and I expect to hear from him soon whether his plans were accepted or rejected. For the present I know just as little about them as you do.

First of all, I wish to report my experiences since writing my letter of October 26. My stay in Bünde began to become monotonous, Winter was in school all day, the weather was bad, our dear Carl was too lazy to talk, Minchen was busy, Father had nothing to

say, Fritz was displeased with the weather—in short, Fritz and I left for Bielefeld, where we had a good time. Christ Wessel was highly pleased to see us, also the Mensendieks, the widow Dustman, Burcher, Knemeyer, Wm. Brunsch, Speyer, Dreibholz, Bensing, Bäcker, Stein, Fritzchen Greve, Staudecker, etc.; Mrs. Laar, née Waldecker, was not at home.

I inquired about old man Betke, Kurlbaum's father-in-law, and I was told he is working every day in spite of his age. Wm. Reckmann assured me that Betke needs help badly, and that it would be better if his daughter gave him a regular allowance, however small it might be, as even twenty-five dollars per year would help pay toward rent and heat. Betke is a highly respected old gentleman in spite of his poverty, and deserves support. If you will talk to the Kurlbaums, and if they are willing to pay an amount *in cash* to Gildehaus & Witte, for him, I shall be glad to deposit the equivalent with Reckmann in Bielefeld at the rate of one *Taler* and ten *Silbergroschen* for each dollar. It is not advisable to send the money direct to him, as his children may deprive him of it, and Betke himself prefers the handling of the matter in this way. He deposited the last amount with Reckmann and drew it out in small sums as needed.

I find that I wrote also on November 1 in regard to Gretchen, and while writing this, I received Witte's letter of October 9. Hearty congratulations to the lovers, one kiss for Fritzchen Witte, and two to the lovely bride-to-be—in thought of course. I suggest to you, dear Cousin Witte, to look deeply into the eyes of your dear Mariechen and to read my letter of last spring or summer.¹ I do not doubt that you will agree with me and that you will say: "That's correct." Again heartfelt congratulations, and may God bless you both! The day before yesterday, when reading the copy of August's letter to Father, I became really sentimental and I wrote the following:

*Aus weiter Ferne grüsse ich
Euch, meine Lieben, inniglich
Und bitte Euch, bei Eurem Glück
Denkt dann und wann an mich zurück!
Als Euren lieben Onkel Wulfing.*

Though we are many, many miles apart,
I greet you, loving friends, with all my heart,
And bid you in the midst of your great love
To give a thought just now and then, by Jove,
To your loving Uncle Wulfing.

¹ See p. 370.

It is thoughtful of you to delay the wedding until my return; however, I suggest you get married on the Second Christmas Day. Please do not take my suggestion ill, but I know from my own experience that business and love do not mix; therefore it is best not to postpone the wedding such a long time. How is your Mariechen? Is she as cold as marble, or can you read in her eyes that she is really happy? Once again my most heartfelt congratulations to both of you. When in Bielefeld I called on Pörtner and wife, and I had to tell them much about their son Carl; they may give me some money for their son. Fritz agreed to come to Lennep this winter and we may spend a few days in the Berg country.

We intend to spend my fifty-first birthday here and leave for Bielefeld, Schildesche, and Bünde on February 18. From there we go to Osnabrück and Bremen and return by the first steamer in March. The Winters, that is Gretchen and Pundt, and the others who wish to join us, prefer to travel by sailing vessel via New Orleans, as the fare is considerably cheaper. I have left all these arrangements with Fritz, and our departure depends on his decision. I believe and I hope that the Winters, Father, and Carl remain here.

Fritz called on Schlutius, but I did not. Father Meyer asked me repeatedly if his Carlchen was actually so much under the thumb of his beloved Agathe as the Schlutius people trumpet forth (*ausposaunen*).

Greetings to Gildehaus from Georg Meyer, who is in the tobacco business in Bünde. Last week I called on the widow Nohl in Gummersbach and she sends hearty greetings to her sons, Carl (with Block & Evers) and Frank (with Abeles & Taussig). Mrs. Nohl lives in good circumstances, is feeling well, and she is cheerful and well satisfied. Her daughter is employed by the widow of von Berg; she is a pleasant young lady and she is engaged to a Mr. Hammacher, of Kettwick on the Ruhr.

I called on Amalie Kauert, who has aged considerably. Her children are grown except a son, fourteen years of age, who may go to America at some future time. Julia and I went to Lüttringhausen yesterday; Mrs. Moll and also Holthaus have heard nothing from their children for a long time.

If the weather is fair, I may go to Ronsdorf this week and I may call on our Cousin Linnartz. She is a widow and has a good store; you may remember that she was with the Springmanns in Bielefeld in former years. I still have to go to Huckeswagen, Remscheid, Barmen, Elberfeld, and Solingen. I intend to call on a traveling salesman of Rönsch, of Elberfeld, whom I met in Bielefeld. Until now

I have liked Osnabrück and Lennep best. We spend Sundays with our cousins and we talk about our experiences. The Lennep people are very obliging, with no exception whatsoever. I shall call on Böhmer and Hermann Schroder as soon as this letter is completed. Böhmer called on me during my absence; he received the engagement announcement and he brought it over to Julia.

I shall answer your kind letter now, but first a hearty kiss for you, dear Mother! Thank God, you are feeling all right and little Mariechen weighs eighteen and a half pounds. The little darling! Oh, it certainly will be a great pleasure when we see each other again! I am in good health too, but I catch cold easily in this raw climate. The political situation is such that I could not stand these conditions very long. It is outrageous to observe how sternly the people are treated and how they are compelled to submit to control. Elections are public and by word of mouth, i. e. the voters must call the names of their candidates loud. What a sham!

Generally speaking, people are dissatisfied, and secret plotting is going on, but it is weak and feeble. Then again, you may say that people are well pleased, that is, they are as much pleased as the school boy who was told he was to get twelve lashes and was given only ten, who plays the hypocrite by pretending to be remorseful and promising to do better, and who thinks of revenge at the same time. The propertied class is afraid that a change might cause them to lose their possessions, and they prefer to leave conditions as they are. The proletarians must keep their mouths shut and suffer if they want to feed their wives and children. The soldiery and the government officials are getting more impudent every day. Oh, yes, poor, beautiful Germany is so enervated that I really feel sorry for the people, and this feeling increases the more I get an opportunity to look into their miserable conditions.

False devotion is gaining ground, and this is encouraged from Berlin to such an extent that no minister will be employed unless he is submissive and consequently a false pretender, and many excellent clergymen have been forced to become hypocrites, unless they did not care whether they kept their positions or not. Pastor Kunsemüller, of Wedern, suppressed the rifle-meetings of the farmers; Pastor Schroder, of Bünde, announced from the altar that rope-jumping is indecent behavior, and he ordered parents and teachers to see to it that the little girls discontinue this practice. Winter is the most troubled school teacher I ever saw.

They have a bust of their good and pious king in the Merchants' Association Hall. When I inquired since when they had become

such good Prussians, they told me it was a present which nobody wanted, and nobody knew what to do with it. At last they agreed to decide by a secret vote what to do with it, whether they should place the bust in the Hall or not, and the majority voted "no." This was against the wishes of the government, and to please the officials they decided to place the bust in the Hall without saying another word about it.

This is the situation; even people who are satisfied with the king are not satisfied with the general conditions. That is enough about Germany! I am convinced that the Germans are not matured enough to appreciate liberty. The educated and upper class does not want liberty; the middle class can do nothing about it and they will cease to exist sooner or later; the last class is too poor, too ignorant, too deprived, they have no idea about liberty and they confuse liberty with disorder and lawlessness. I have given up all hopes for Germany!

Dear Mother, you weigh 132 pounds; this is a nice weight, and I am sure you will gain this winter, particularly if you are cheerful and gay, and if you do not worry too much about our being separated. You should be happy, as we shall be reunited soon. I trust that my letters of October 5, 8, 26, and November 1 please you. I met Madame Kotter at our cousin's, and she wishes me to extend her greetings; also hearty greetings from Julia, our dear cousins, and all relatives and friends from Osnabrück, Bünde, Bielefeld, particularly from Chr. Wessel, the Mensendieks, Dustmanns, in short, from every one whom I called on and to whom I spoke. I have greetings for Mathilde, Gildehaus, Bernard, Carl, Fritz, Witte, and Bertha, also for Quincy, but I consider it ridiculous to list them by name.

August mentioned that a Pastor Schwartzrote asked for the hand of Lina, whom he never saw. He intends to answer in the negative. He should write in plain words that he does not wish his gentle daughter to marry a pastor, and you may add that I wrote you he is not worthy of such a fine daughter if he can give her to a pastor. August writes further: "Rudolph is getting along well, his principal leaves him in the store for hours all by himself." Well, I am pleased about the first part of the sentence, but to leave a boy of his age in the store for hours all by himself—there is something wrong somewhere. The boy is too young to handle money and it is impossible for him to know enough about the business; either the store is no good, or the principal, or possibly both. August should understand that much, and it may be well to look into this. The song books left

Bielefeld about two weeks ago. Julius Winter may do well by moving to Quincy. August writes further: "Marie left with Christiane a week ago to take care of her dear Cousin Mathilde," etc.

My darling Tilla ill, and you failed to write me about this? If this is correct, Mother would not have gone to Quincy; but Mother might have been in Quincy when Tilla became sick, and she wrote Mother, and Mother brought Marie along to take care of her; but, if this is correct, Tilla's and Marie's last letter would have been less cheerful, and this leads me to believe that Marie did not call to take care of Tilla; she called to visit her. Please write me more about this, and please write nothing but the absolute truth.

November 15, 1852.

Last night I went to the Association again and I met many of my old schoolmates and other friends and relatives. I have to admit that the people of Lennep are very attentive and kind to me, as I have not had an opportunity so far to pay for my own wine. Every evening somebody wishes me to be his special guest, and it would not be right if I refused, as they like to hear something about our happy America, and most of them have a full understanding about the many advantages this country offers. Last night Wm. Strohn, the "pretty boy," acted as *Dominus Tractandus*, and he sat next to me; he left for a moment, and he did not get his seat back for the rest of the evening. If I tried to visit every one who asked me to call on him, I should have no time left for myself.

I met Mr. Bohmer, who inquired about Fritz Witte; he was greatly pleased to hear that not only Marie—love is blind—but also other honest people consider him to be a capable, respectable, and amiable young man, and that I consider him to be one of my best and dearest young friends. Bohmer told me he had a pleasing letter from August, and that August gave a negative answer to the pastor of Ohio in accordance with Lina's wishes. Gustav Petersen inquired about August and his family, also about Witte. I have not seen Schroder as yet, but I intend to call on him and also on Bohmer within a few days.

My dear Tilla:

You gave me again great pleasure with your kind letter; many thanks, my darling daughter. I hope that you will teach your little Mariechen to say at least "Hopapa," as she will hardly be able to say "grandfather" by the time I return home. Give her a hearty kiss for me. I begin to feel my being separated from your dear mother and

yourself deeply. When in Bünde I became terribly homesick. I caught a bad cold during the two weeks of rain and I had fever. One morning, toward five o'clock, the thought tortured me: "How is it possible that you could leave your wife and children and travel through the world six thousand miles from home and to leave everything you love behind? When you decided to take this trip alone, you must have been temporarily insane and not capable of thinking clearly." This thought tortured me so that I got up, drank a glass of water, washed myself and went down stairs, but I could not shake the thought off. I made up my mind to write Julia to pack my things and to ship them to St. Louis, as I would not return to Lennep, but leave for Bremen this very day, since homesickness and an intense longing for my family were torturing me in such a way that I could not control myself any longer. With this thought on my mind I fell asleep, and when I awoke around nine o'clock I was feeling better, and only the memory of this torture was left. I was afraid I should experience the same the next night, but I slept well, and I did not suffer from this any more.

I am sorry to hear that Wm. Kayser's child has passed away; these fine people did not have much luck with their children. What a great blessing it is, my dear Mother, that we have such wonderful children; may God grant us many more happy years! Give Carl my hearty greetings and mention to him that I expect to get a long letter; and tell him not to overlook entertaining his dear mother, Mathilde, and Mariechen once in a while. My dear Carl, please do that much for me—I know you will fulfil my wish.

My dear Fritz:

I wrote you in a previous letter and I expressed the wish to get a few lines from you. Please tell me how you are, if you still like it at Benzen's, how you pass your spare time, and accept hearty greetings from your father.

Dear C. R. H. G.:

I appreciate your kind letter and detailed report very much; many thanks, and please write again, as I do not intend to leave here before February 18. Julia insists that I stay that long. I am pleased to hear that Springmann has left. I asked his father some time ago how he intended to settle his son's obligations, and he answered that he had written his son about it but had failed to get a reply so far. Your opinion about the boy is bad, but my own opinion is even worse. We get the *Republican* regularly. As I wrote before, we liked

Osnabrück, and Fritz and I give Osnabrück preference over Bielefeld. When in Gummersbach we heard that a dear friend of mine now lives in Paris; it is too bad that we did not know about this, as he might have been of great help. We read in a local newspaper that Webster had passed away, and you may have read by the time you get this letter that Dr. Becker, of Cologne, has been sentenced to five years imprisonment in a fortress. This judgment has caused general discontent, but there is nothing that can be done about it. Please transmit greetings to Adolph Nohl from the pharmacist Schwabe, of Wipperfurth, and tell Carl Nohl that Mrs.—I believe Freudenberg—née Emilie Kind, was buried when I was in Gummersbach. I am pleased to hear that de Mark paid the ten dollars, but I do not understand how *Maikafer* could make the statement that de Mark did not intend to pay. I bragged about the Lennepers too early, as I actually had to pay five *Silbergroschen* for a half-bottle of Rhine wine today. I am having a good time in Lennep and I am not suffering from loneliness. The draft for \$100.00 for Springmann on Gildehaus & Witte may have been presented when you read this letter. I am eager to hear from Fritz about the Osnabrück matter. If he fails, I doubt that he will try again in Germany. Please write soon and see to it that Carl and Fritz do not fail to write a few lines.

My dear Cousin Witte:

I have already expressed my hearty congratulations. I should have complied with your wish to write about your family matter separately, if you had mentioned this to me earlier, but I regard you as a member of our family, and I had no idea that my letters were mailed to Quincy. Fritz mailed his letters to August, and I thought this would give them enough information about our trip. I shall repeat my opinion that I blame the mother for the difficulties between Hermann and his mother. Hermann is highly respected by everyone, and his sisters live on good terms with him and his wife. As I shall not go to Osnabrück before spring, I shall postpone the payment of \$100.00 to your mother until then, and I may have another letter from you by that time regarding your wishes about a payment to your brother. It is understood that I shall comply with your wishes promptly. Please give me definite instructions in regard to bringing another sister with me; I, however, agree with you that it is best not to do this, at least at the present time. If you have any other wishes, do not hesitate to write me about them, but do not delay writing too long, as our departure depends on Fritz' success and his

decision. With reference to your Uncle Meyer, I wrote you that it is best to give power of attorney to somebody.

You inquire how we liked conditions in France, and my answer is: "Not particularly." Though we saw much in Paris, we lacked knowledge of the language and we should have benefited more by having a good German friend in place of a paid German servant. Public feeling was somewhat depressed in regard to politics, and everybody seemed to be afraid of spies.² We were glad to leave Paris and France behind us.

Conditions in Germany are not as bad as they are in France. In Germany you can at least express your opinion when you exercise a little caution, but in France nobody is willing to talk, and they are afraid of each other. Fathers do not trust their own sons, and if some one is talking to his most intimate friend, conversation about politics will cease as soon as a third person enters the room. Arrests are made every day, and many of the poor fellows had no bad intentions whatsoever. The erstwhile most talkative Frenchmen were quiet on the trains, excepting a few short remarks about the weather or the expected vintage. We noted discontent and distrust in every face.

My sister wishes me to transmit greetings and heartfelt congratulation to you and your dear Mariechen, and she wishes you luck, happiness, and a long life.

Farewell, and many hearty greetings, and do not forget your
UNCLE WULFING.

And now a few lines just for you, my darling Mother.

I assure you that I long for our departure in spite of entertainments and hospitable receptions. The period of our separation is really too long, but we are here, and this trip will be a pleasant and most interesting remembrance as long as I live. We can do nothing about it now, and we must wait until March. As I said before, it all depends upon Fritz's decision.

Now a little joke, or rather a conversation, which I had with Heinrich Potthoff, of Bielefeld. This will give you a true picture of his malicious and false character:

W. Good morning Mr. Potthoff, I should like to buy a bolt of your fine linen.

P. I regret it, I have no linen here, it is at the bleachery. Could you come back tomorrow, as I shall have several fine pieces by that time. At what price do you wish to buy, and what is your name please?

² On December 2, 1851, Napoleon III was elected President of France for life by a coup d'état, and he proclaimed himself Emperor of France one year later, on December 2, 1852.

- W. I am mayor Hildebrand, of Uchte, and I bought several bolts from you about eighteen years ago, but I may be in the wrong place, as I remember distinctly there was a store across the street; the owner's name was Wulff, Wulfken, or something similar.
- P. You mean Wulfing—he went to America many years ago.
- W. What did you say? To America? I never heard about this, and it is hard to believe. He was a nice fellow—upright, honest, and jovial.
- P. It is as I told you. He went with his wife and children and he coaxed two brothers-in-law to go along; and now he is going around with a piddle box—Oh, his poor wife! He was a nice fellow, I liked him and I spent many evenings with him. He was not stupid, but in spite of this he did something foolish.
- W. What! You don't mean to say he did—well, you understand?
- P. Oh, no! He had a pretty and kindhearted little wife, and they lived an ideal life, but he bought a house for 4000 *Taler* and paid nothing down; besides, his business was not on a paying basis. He bound himself by too many obligations; and I call this foolish on his part. I know better; he came from the Berg country, and there they may get by with such things, but here, it won't do; you can do nothing with nothing in this part of the country. Buying is easy, but how about paying? Well, we saw the result—it lasted just about three years.
- W. What did you mean by your remark about a piddle box?
- P. Oh, yes, he sells jewelry, copper rings, etc.; his own brother-in-law, Pauck, told me so, and I suppose this is correct. In plain words, he is a peddler.
- W. Don't you think he may be doing better by now? Have you heard anything about him lately?
- P. No, I have not. He may be dead; it may be better with him, or worse, I don't know. His poor wife! I say: "Stay in your native land and make an honest living." I have heard all sorts of rumors about his brother-in-law too; you ought to hear about these.
- W. Never mind! Would you recognize Wulfing if you saw him? He was a short fellow about my height, but not so stout.
- P. (After staring at me for a while.) Now I know you; you, our old neighbor! Well, I have said nothing, nothing indeed! Tell me, my dear old neighbor, did I say anything that others would not have said? I have said nothing, nothing at all!
- W. Never mind, Mr. Potthoff; I must go now, I'll see you some other time.
- P. Why are you in such a hurry? Where are you staying?
- W. (Leaving.) At Knemeyer's. Adieu, Mr. Potthoff.

I told Knemeyer about this conversation. Potthoff called after dinner, but I declined to go to the Casino with him; I continued to converse with other guests, and friend *Schangerwit* trotted off.

Tante Speck forgot to add her personal greetings, but I'll forgive her this time.

I do not wish to write about our future arrangements, as time will take care of this, so do not worry too much. To write about it is too complicated, and things will turn out all right. By talking this

matter over we can accomplish more in one half-hour than we can accomplish by writing a letter of twenty pages.

I shall get the towels, spoons, etc.; do you want me to buy a half-dozen or a dozen of the teaspoons? I intend to get them from Stauder. Please tell me in your next letter what else you wish me to buy for you, or Mathilde and Witte, or Marie, or Gildehaus.

My dear Christiane, my Loved ones and Lovers, All of You:

I shall finish now; I trust I have complied with all of your wishes and that I have earned our dear Mother's contentedness; farewell—Oh, I almost forgot to mention that Julia is highly pleased with the pictures, in fact, she is extraordinarily pleased with them; she wishes me to transmit her thanks, and she presses Mother to her sisterly heart, etc., and sends extra greetings.

Farewell, and most heartfelt greetings to all of you, from your
GUSTAVUS WULFING.³

Here is a little space for ten million extra greetings and kisses for my darling Christelchen!

³ The author of these letters died suddenly of apoplexy at Lennep, November 28, 1852.

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